

SALARIES OF INDIAN POLICEMEN IN ALASKA

APRIL 22, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. CARPENTER, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3454]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3454) for the relief of certain Indian policemen in the Territory of Alaska, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

In line 5, after the word "appropriated," insert the following: "and in full settlement against the Government."

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The purpose of this bill, H. R. 3454, is to compensate certain Indians in the Territory of Alaska who served in the capacity of Territorial Indian policemen.

From the time of the American occupation of Alaska in 1867 until 1877 Alaska was governed by the War Department, but in the latter year control of the Territory was placed with the Treasury Department, where it continued until the act of 1884, which established civil government in Alaska.

During the period from 1877 until 1884 the naval officers who represented the administration at Washington, D. C., in the government of the Territory adopted a policy for the maintenance of orderly conditions in the large native section of the town of Sitka, Alaska, of appointing native Indians to act as policemen. These Indian policemen were carried on the pay roll of the Navy as common seamen and received pay as such.

When civil government was extended to Alaska and naval control ceased, in 1884, the newly appointed governor, the Hon. J. H. Kincaid, continued these Indian policemen in their positions, and for a time paid them from special appropriations made to defray the ex-

penses of the Indian Commission, created by section 12 of the organic act of 1884, but the record shows that when Governor Kincaid retired his successor, Hon. A. P. Swineford, found that the pay of these Indian policemen was 6 months in arrears; and the record further shows that during Governor Swineford's administration, by reason of the fact that there was no direct authorization by Congress for the employment of these Indian policemen, their salaries became further in arrears to the extent of another 6 months, making a total of 12 months, or one year.

Under date of May 24, 1888, Governor Swineford prepared a statement setting forth very clearly the circumstances under which these Indian policemen continued to serve at a time when their salaries were not forthcoming, in the expectation, evidently prompted by assurances from the Federal officials, that the Government would finally compensate them for their services.

The statement of Governor Swineford, under date of May 24, 1888, is as follows:

This statement of facts is made for the benefit of Annahootz, James Henry, Dick, Jacob, Tom, and Kattlan, Indian policemen, of whom Annahootz was the chief.

When I assumed the office of governor I found the above-named native men acting as policemen in the native village. They were originally appointed by the naval commander on this station and were carried on the pay rolls as common seamen, receiving pay as such. When my predecessor, Gov. J. H. Kincaid, relieved the naval commander and the civil succeeded the naval authority, he continued these men in their positions and for a period of six months paid them from the special appropriations made to defray the expense of the Indian commission created by section 12 of the organic act. When I relieved Governor Kincaid, I found the pay of these Indian policemen six months in arrears. I deemed it essential and necessary to good order in the native village to continue the force and for a time paid them out of the contingent fund at the rate they had previously been paid, to wit, \$30 per month to the chief, Annahootz, and \$25 per month to the other four. Being compelled to discontinue payment of their salaries from the contingent fund, the men nevertheless continued to serve in the hope and belief that Congress would provide for the payment of their salaries, until July 1, 1887, when Congress, having made provision for Indian police in Alaska I commenced paying them at the rate of \$8 per month, adding \$9 per month as commutation of the ration which I believed would be allowed to each. At the end of six months I ascertained that the ration would not be allowed, and the Indian Bureau charged back to me \$270 paid by way of commutation for such rations, and I am now allowed to pay \$8 per month only for privates and \$10 per month for one officer.

I desire to put on record the fact that these men have served well and faithfully and that there is now due them at least one year's pay under the old rates established by the naval commander, namely: Annahootz, \$360; James Henry, \$300; Dick, \$300; Jacob, \$300; Tom, \$150; Kattlan, successor to Tom, \$150; total, \$1,560.

Should I fail, I hope and trust my successor will spare no effort in securing for these men payment of the respective amounts named—money they have fairly earned and which they are justly entitled to receive.

A. P. SWINEFORD, *Governor.*

MAY 24, 1888.

It will be noted that this statement was written for the purpose of aiding these Indian policemen in obtaining compensation due them.

In Governor Swineford's report of 1885, on page 12, reference is made to the case of the Indian policemen of Sitka, whose salaries should be paid.

Following is copy of a letter from Hon. Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior, giving his approval to the passage of this bill:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 1, 1926.

Hon. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,
Chairman Committee on Claims,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. UNDERHILL: Your letter of January 22, 1926, has been received, inclosing, with request for report thereon, H. R. 3454, entitled "A bill for the relief of certain Indian policemen in the Territory of Alaska.

In response thereto I have to state that it appears that this bill is substantially the same as H. R. 5171, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, entitled "A bill for the relief of certain Indian policemen in the Territory of Alaska," on which by department letter of January 19, 1924, addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Territories of the House of Representatives, a report was made, copy of which is herewith inclosed, together with copies of the inclosures therein referred to. I am not aware of any good reason why the bill should not receive favorable consideration.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget states under date of January 28, 1926, that the proposed report on H. R. 3454, for the relief of certain Indian policemen in Alaska, is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

The following is copy of a letter from the Director of the Budget, which states that the passage of this bill is not in conflict with the financial program of the President:

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, January 28, 1926.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The proposed report, a copy of which was transmitted with your letter of January 26, 1926, on H. R. 3454, for the relief of certain Indian policemen in Alaska, is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. LORD, *Director.*

Hon. HUBERT WORK,
Secretary of the Interior.



NUMBER OF INDIAN POLICEMEN IN ALASKA

Following is copy of a letter from Hon. Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior, giving his approval to the passage of this bill:

Department of the Interior,
Washington, February 1, 1926.

Very truly yours,
Hubert Work,
Secretary of the Interior.

The bill (H. R. 1152) for the relief of certain Indian policemen in the Territory of Alaska, which was introduced in the House of Representatives on January 22, 1925, and passed on January 22, 1926, is approved.

Hubert Work

The following is copy of a letter from the Director of the Budget, which states that the passage of this bill is not in conflict with the financial program of the President:

Director of the Budget,
Washington, January 27, 1926.

H. M. Lomb, Director