

ding. Such contracts shall be advertised for a reasonable time in some newspaper of general circulation published in the State in which the bridge is located and in the vicinity thereof; sealed bids shall be required and the contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Verified copies or abstracts of all bids received and of the bid or bids accepted shall be promptly furnished to the highway department of the State in which such bridge is located. A failure to comply in good faith with the provisions of this section shall render null and void any contract made in violation thereof, and the Secretary of War may, after hearings, order the suspension of all work upon such bridge until the provisions of this section shall have been fully complied with.

SEC. 7. The right to alter, amend or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, March 4, 1929.

Advertising, etc.

Contract void for violations.

Amendment.

CHAP. 703.—An Act To amend the World War Adjusted Compensation Act, as amended, by reducing the rates of interest on loans made by the Veterans' Bureau upon the security of adjusted service certificates, and for other purposes.

March 4, 1929.
[H. R. 16395.]
[Public, No. 1031.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subdivision (i) of section 502 of the World War Adjusted Compensation Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

World War Adjusted Compensation Act.
Vol. 44, p. 1389, amended.

"(i) The Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau is authorized, through such officers and at such regional offices, suboffices, and hospitals of the United States Veterans' Bureau as he may designate, and out of the United States Government life insurance fund established by section 17 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, to make loans to veterans upon their adjusted service certificates in the same amounts and upon the same terms and conditions as are applicable in the case of loans made under this section by a bank, and the provisions of this section shall be applicable to such loans; except that the rate of interest shall be 2 per centum per annum more than the rate charged at the date of the loan for the discount of ninety-day commercial paper under section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act by the Federal reserve bank for the Federal reserve district in which is located the regional office, suboffice, or hospital of the United States Veterans' Bureau at which the loan is made, but in no event shall the rate of interest exceed 6 per centum per annum."

Loan privileges.
Use of life insurance fund allowed for loans on service certificates.

Vol. 43, p. 612.

Rate of interest.

Vol. 42, p. 1479.

Not to exceed 6 per cent.

SEC. 2. Section 705 of the World War Adjusted Compensation Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

Vol. 44, p. 830, amended.

"SEC. 705. Whenever it appears to the director, by evidence clear and satisfactory to him, that any adjusted service certificate has, without bad faith upon the part of the person entitled to payment thereon, been lost or destroyed, and such adjusted service certificate is identified by number and description, he shall, under such regulations and with such restrictions as to time and retention for security or otherwise as he may prescribe, issue a duplicate thereof of like value in all respects to the original certificate and so marked as to show the original number of the certificate lost or destroyed and the date thereof. The lawful holder of such certificate who makes application for a duplicate shall file in the United States Veterans' Bureau a bond in a penal sum of the face value of such lost or destroyed certificate, with two good and sufficient sureties, residents of the United States, to be approved by the director, with condition to indemnify and save harmless the United States from any claim upon

Lost, etc., service certificates.
Provisions for issuing duplicates, etc.

Bond from lawful holder.

Issue without bond. Vol. 44, p. 1390. such lost or destroyed certificate; except that a duplicate certificate shall be issued without the requirement of a bond when it is shown to the satisfaction of the director that the original certificate, (1) before delivery to the veteran, has been lost, destroyed, wholly or in part, or so defaced as to impair its value, and (2) after delivery to the veteran, has, without bad faith upon the part of the person entitled to payment thereon, been partially destroyed or defaced so as to impair its value, is capable of identification, and is surrendered by such person to the Veterans' Bureau."

Partially destroyed, etc.

Approved, March 4, 1929.

March 4, 1929.
[H. R. 17208.]
[Public, No. 1032.]

CHAP. 704.—An Act To extend the times for commencing and completing the construction of a bridge across the Missouri River at or near Niobrara, Nebraska.

Missouri River. Time extended for bridging, at Niobrara, Nebr.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the times for commencing and completing the construction of a bridge across the Missouri River at or near Niobrara, Nebraska, authorized to be built by H. A. Rinder, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, by Act of Congress approved May 22, 1928, are hereby extended one and three years, respectively, from May 22, 1929.

Ante, p. 708.

SEC. 2. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment.

Approved, March 4, 1929.

March 4, 1929.
[H. R. 15089.]
[Public, No. 1033.]

CHAP. 705.—An Act Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, and for other purposes.

Interior Department appropriations, fiscal year, 1930.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, namely:

Secretary's Office.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SALARIES

Secretary, Assistants, and office personnel.

Secretary of the Interior, \$15,000; First Assistant Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and other personal services in the District of Columbia, \$369,000, in all, \$384,000: *Provided*, That in expending appropriations or portions of appropriations, contained in this Act, for the payment for personal services in the District of Columbia in accordance with the Classification Act of 1923, as amended (U. S. C., pp. 65-71, secs. 661-673, 45 Stat., pp. 776-785), the average of the salaries of the total number of persons under any grade in any bureau, office, or other appropriation unit shall not at any time exceed the average of the compensation rates specified for the grade by such Act, as amended, and in grades in which only one position is allocated the salary of such position shall not exceed the average of the compensation rates for the grade except that in unusually meritorious cases of one position in a grade advances may be made to rates higher than the average of the compensation rates of the grade but not more often than once in any fiscal year and then only to the next higher rate: *Provided*, That this restriction shall not apply (1) to grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the clerical-mechanical service, or (2) to require the reduction in salary of any person whose compensation

Provisos.
Salaries limited to average rates under Classification Act.
Vol. 42, p. 1488.
Ante, p. 776.
U. S. Code, p. 65.

If only one position in a grade.

Advances for unusually meritorious services.

Restriction not applicable to clerical-mechanical service.
No reduction in fixed salaries.