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40 U. S. C. §§ 401-410.

virtue of the provisions of title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act (48 Stat. 195, 200), and by virtue of all other provisions of law relating to such projects are hereby transferred from the jurisdiction and control of the government of the Virgin Islands, Department of the Interior, to the jurisdiction and control of the Department of Agriculture. The Virgin Islands Homestead Authority is hereby abolished and its functions transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

Agency abolished.

Transfer of property, records, etc.

SEC. 2. All real and personal property owned or held by the United States in the Virgin Islands and employed exclusively in the prosecution of homestead projects, and all equipment, assets, and records pertaining to homestead projects in the Virgin Islands, including the equipment, assets, and records of the Virgin Islands Homestead Authority, are hereby transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

Continuance of contracts, etc.

SEC. 3. All valid contracts, sales, transfers, leases, and other transactions heretofore entered into or affected by the government of the Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Homestead Authority, the Department of the Interior, or any officer or agency of any of the foregoing, in connection with homestead projects in the Virgin Islands are hereby continued in full force and effect: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture, or his designee, may compromise claims and obligations arising under, and adjust and modify the terms of such contracts, as circumstances may require.

Proviso.

Funds.

SEC. 4. The Department of Agriculture is hereby authorized to use for the administration, development, management, and liquidation of the homestead projects in the Virgin Islands transferred to its jurisdiction and control all funds heretofore or hereafter appropriated, allocated, or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture for rural rehabilitation projects and functions of like character to those transferred hereunder.

Approved, December 23, 1941.

[CHAPTER 625]

December 26, 1941
[H. R. 6208]
[Public Law 373]

AN ACT

To authorize black-outs in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia.
Authority of Commissioners to order black-outs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized and directed, whenever a state of war exists between the United States and any foreign country or nation, to order black-outs in the District of Columbia at such times and for such periods of time as they may deem desirable, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, to regulate and prohibit the movement of vehicular traffic on the highways during such periods and to make such regulations as they may deem necessary to insure the success of the black-outs and to protect life and property during said periods.

Synchronization with Maryland and Virginia.

SEC. 2. The Commissioners are authorized to negotiate with the proper authorities of the States of Maryland and Virginia with a view to effecting a synchronization of black-outs in the District of Columbia and such parts of those States as may be necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Act.

Assistance of Secretary of War.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of War is authorized to assist and cooperate with the Commissioners of the District of Columbia in the execution of black-outs in the District of Columbia and the metropolitan area.

No liability for damages.

SEC. 4. The municipality of the District of Columbia shall not be liable for any damages sustained to person or property during, or as the result of, an authorized black-out.

Penalty for crime committed during black-out.

SEC. 5. The statutory penalty upon conviction of any crime, other than those punishable by life imprisonment or death, committed during any authorized black-out shall be doubled.

Appointment of special police.

SEC. 6. During the existence of a state of war between the United States and any foreign country or nation, the Commissioners may appoint, for specified times, as many special police, without pay, from among residents of the District of Columbia as they may deem advisable. During the terms of service of such special police they shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of privates of the standing police force of the District of Columbia, and such special police shall wear an emblem to be provided by the Commissioners.

Volunteer service.

SEC. 7. During the existence of a state of war between the United States and any foreign country or nation, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized to accept volunteer service for the government of the District of Columbia.

Evacuation preparations.

SEC. 8. During the existence of a state of war between the United States and any foreign country or nation, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, are authorized to prepare for the evacuation from the District of Columbia or from any part thereof of all such persons as they shall determine, and for this purpose shall negotiate with the proper authorities of any State of the United States or of any subdivision thereof to provide for the reception, housing, maintenance, and care of evacuees, shall prepare all necessary plans for the conduct of such evacuation, and may when in their judgment the public interest or the safety of such persons creates the necessity therefor order and compel, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, the evacuation from the District of Columbia of any such persons to such place or places as they may designate. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized and empowered to obligate the District of Columbia for the payment of all necessary costs and to make such regulations as they may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, and, for the purpose of compelling evacuation, may authorize custody by the regular or special police of any person or persons, which custody shall be effective until the point of destination has been reached, and the powers of such police for such purpose are hereby declared to extend to any point within the United States that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia may designate. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury to the credit of the United States not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

Payment of costs.

Use of police to compel evacuation.

Appropriation authorized.

Authority to borrow money, etc.

SEC. 9. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized and empowered, without regard to the provisions of any other law, and for defense purposes, to borrow money from the Treasury of the United States, to expend the same, to obligate the District of Columbia for the payment of equipment, materials, and supplies of all kinds, and to employ personnel as the Commissioners in their discretion may deem necessary, not exceeding $1,000,000, and the said Commissioners are further authorized and empowered to use such regular employees of the Government of the District of Columbia as they deem necessary.

Use of regular employees.

Treasury loans.

Appropriation.

The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to loan to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia such sum or sums as are authorized by this section, and there is hereby appropriated for this purpose $1,000,000 out of any money in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the United States not otherwise appropriated.

Penalties for violations of regulations.

SEC. 10. The Commissioners shall have the power to prescribe reasonable penalties for violation of any regulation promulgated pursuant to this Act, not exceeding a fine of $300 or ninety days' imprisonment, or both. Prosecution for such violations shall be on information in the police court by the corporation counsel or his assistants.

Approved, December 26, 1941.

[CHAPTER 626]

AN ACT

December 26, 1941
[S. 588]
[Public Law 374]

To extend the period within which the Secretary of Agriculture may carry out the purposes of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act by making payments to agricultural producers, and for other purposes.

Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, amendments.
49 Stat. 1149; 50 Stat. 329.
16 U. S. C. § 590h (a).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 8 (a), as amended, of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (U. S. C., 1934 edition, Supp. V, title 16, sec. 590 (h) (a)) is amended (a) by striking out "January 1, 1942" wherever appearing therein and inserting in lieu thereof "January 1, 1947", and (b) striking out "December 31, 1941" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1946".

Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, amendments.
Commodity Credit Corporation loans.
Ante, p. 205.

SEC. 2. The paragraph numbered (10) of the Act entitled "An Act relating to corn and wheat marketing quotas under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended", approved May 26, 1941, is amended—

(a) By striking out the words and figures "1941 crop of the commodities, cotton, corn, wheat, rice, or tobacco" and insert "1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1946 crops of the commodities cotton, corn, wheat, rice, tobacco and peanuts";

(b) By striking out "for the marketing year beginning in 1941" and inserting in lieu thereof "for the marketing year beginning in the calendar year in which such crop is harvested".

Approved, December 26, 1941.

[CHAPTER 627]

AN ACT

December 26, 1941
[S. 1544]
[Public Law 375]

To provide for cooperation with Central American republics in the construction of the Inter-American Highway.

Inter-American Highway.
Appropriation authorized for cooperative survey and construction.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum not to exceed $20,000,000 to enable the United States to cooperate with the governments of the American republics situated in Central America—that is, with the Governments of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama—in the survey and construction of the proposed Inter-American Highway within the borders of the aforesaid republics.

Expenditures subject to certain conditions.

Expenditures of such sums in any such country shall be subject to the receipt of a request therefor and of satisfactory assurances from the government of that country that appropriate commitments have been made by such government to assume at least one-third of the expenditures proposed to be incurred henceforth by that country and by the United States in the survey and construction of such highway within the borders of such country. In no such country shall the expenditures of this Government from the appropriations herein authorized exceed two-thirds of the total expenses henceforth incurred for said survey and construction in that country.