

48 Stat. 1080
47 USC 221.

Telephone com-
panies.
Consolidation.

SEC. 3. Section 221 (a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 221. (a) Upon application of one or more telephone companies for authority to consolidate their properties or a part thereof into a single company, or for authority for one or more such companies to acquire the whole or any part of the property of another telephone company or other telephone companies or the control thereof by the purchase of securities or by lease or in any other like manner, when such consolidated company would be subject to this Act, the Commission shall give reasonable notice in writing to the governor of each of the States in which the physical property affected, or any part thereof, is situated, and to the State commission having jurisdiction over telephone companies, and to such other persons as it may deem advisable, and shall afford such parties a reasonable opportunity to submit comments on the proposal. A public hearing shall be held in all cases where a request therefor is made by a telephone company, an association of telephone companies, a State commission, or local governmental authority. If the Commission finds that the proposed consolidation, acquisition, or control will be of advantage to the persons to whom service is to be rendered and in the public interest, it shall certify to that effect; and thereupon any Act or Acts of Congress making the proposed transaction unlawful shall not apply. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as in anywise limiting or restricting the powers of the several States to control and regulate telephone companies."

66 Stat. 722.
47 USC 410.

SEC. 4. Section 410 (a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, is amended by inserting before the words "the Commission" in the second sentence of the section the words "an examiner provided for in section 11 of the Administrative Procedure Act, designated by" so that such section 410 (a) will read as follows:

"SEC. 410. (a) Except as provided in section 409, the Commission may refer any matter arising in the administration of this Act to a joint board to be composed of a member, or of an equal number of members, as determined by the Commission, from each of the States in which the wire or radio communication affected by or involved in the proceeding takes place or is proposed. For purposes of acting upon such matter any such board shall have all the jurisdiction and powers conferred by law upon an examiner provided for in section 11 of the Administrative Procedure Act, designated by the Commission, and shall be subject to the same duties and obligations. The action of a joint board shall have such force and effect and its proceedings shall be conducted in such manner as the Commission shall by regulations prescribe. The joint board member or members for each State shall be nominated by the State commission of the State or by the Governor if there is no State commission, and appointed by the Federal Communications Commission. The Commission shall have discretion to reject any nominee. Joint board members shall receive such allowances for expenses as the Commission shall provide."

Approved August 2, 1956.

Public Law 915

CHAPTER 875

JOINT RESOLUTION

August 2, 1956
[S. J. Res. 105]

Authorizing the President of the United States to designate the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week.

Constitution
Week.
Designation.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to designate the period

beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week, and to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe such week in schools, churches, and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved August 2, 1956.

Public Law 916

CHAPTER 876

AN ACT

August 2, 1956
[S. 912]

To amend the Act of April 23, 1930, relating to a uniform retirement date for authorized retirements of Federal personnel.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first section of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for a uniform retirement date for authorized retirements of Federal personnel", approved April 23, 1930 (46 Stat. 253), is amended by inserting "(a)" after "That" and by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(b) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretaries of the uniformed services are authorized to specify an effective date for the retirement for permanent physical disability or placement on a temporary disability retired list of members of their respective uniformed services which is earlier than the date for retirement provided for in subsection (a).

"(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)—

"(A) the term 'uniformed services' shall have the same meaning as when used in the Career Compensation Act of 1949; and

"(B) the term 'Secretaries' includes the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare."

Approved August 2, 1956.

Retirement of
Federal personnel.

5 USC 47a.

"Uniform serv-
ices".
63 Stat. 804.
37 USC 231.
"Secretaries".

Public Law 917

CHAPTER 877

AN ACT

August 2, 1956
[S. 1637]

To extend the time limit within which awards of certain military and naval decorations may be made.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, a decoration or device in lieu of decoration which, prior to the date of enactment of this Act, has been authorized by Congress to be awarded to any person for an act or service performed while on active duty in the military or naval forces of the United States, or while serving with such forces, may be awarded at any time not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act for any such act or service performed between June 27, 1950, and July 27, 1953, inclusive, if written recommendation for the decoration or device in lieu of decoration has been submitted to the appropriate office in a military department at the seat of Government before the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved August 2, 1956.

Armed Forces.
Decorations.