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REPORT ON POCKET VETO

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MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A MEMORANDUM PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REGARDING BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT LESS THAN 10 DAYS BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS AND NOT SIGNED BY HIM

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DECEMBER 22, 1928.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE, *December 22, 1928.*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am transmitting herewith for the information of the Congress a memorandum prepared in the office of the Attorney General regarding bills presented to the President less than ten days before the adjournment of Congress and not signed by him.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
*Washington, October 10, 1928.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In re bills presented to the President less than ten days before the adjournment of Congress and not signed by him. In the case of each such bill, what was done with the engrossed copy of the bill, and what communication or memorandum was made in connection with such disposition?

Such unsigned bills are found in four places: in the custody of the Secretary of the Senate; in the custody of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress (where Presidential messages to the House of Representatives prior to the Civil War have been deposited); in the

The paper is written in pencil and reads:

Pocketed  
March 3d, 1871

- S. 799—An Act for the relief of Anna M. Howard—  
H. R. 2334—An Act granting a pension to Adam Correll—  
S. 762. An Act for the relief of Joseph Ormsby—  
S. 943—An Act for the relief of George Wright  
S. 1213—An Act for the relief of Mary M. Clarke, widow of Leonard Clark, deceased—  
S. 995—An Act for the relief of purchasers of lands sold for direct taxes in the insurrectionary States—  
S. 109—An Act in relation to the Selma, Rome & Dalton Railroad Company, Alabama.  
H. R. 2591—An Act relating to telegraphic communication between the United States & foreign countries—  
S. R. 295. A Resolution relating to rights of actual settlers upon certain lands—  
H. R. 1831—An Act to confirm the title to the Rancho del Rio Grande, in New Mexico, to the heirs & legal representatives of the original grantees thereof—

With the paper is this letter:

EXECUTIVE MANSION

Washington April 12, 1877.

MY DEAR Mr. BROWN:

In making some changes in this office the accompanying bills—marked "Pocketed March 3d 1871"—came to light.

I forward them for such disposition as you think best.

Very truly

O. L. PRUDEN

Asst. Secty

Mr. S. A. BROWN

Chief Clerk

Dept of State

Then follow all the bills in the above list except "H. R. 2591, An act relating to telegraph communication between the United States and foreign countries," the position of which is stated above.

The 42d Congress, second session, which adjourned on June 10, 1872, the legislative day of June 8 (Cong. Globe, vol. 104, pp. 4461, 4504) passed a bill "to reimburse John E. Woodward for certain moneys paid by him." It is stamped "Department of State Received Jun. 11, 1872." Attached to it is a slip of paper reading:

Bills H. R. 1424) Presented to the President June 10, 1872, which he de  
H. R. 2622) clined to approve.  
Woodward Recd. at Dept. of State June 11, 1872.  
De Long

At the same Congress and same session was a bill for the relief of James De Long. It is stamped:

Department of State Received Jun. 11, 1872. Attached to it is a slip reading:

H. R. 1424

H. R. 2622

Presented to the President June 10th, 1872, and which he declined to approve.

The 42d Congress, third session, which ended on March 4, 1873, the legislative day of March 3 (Cong. Globe, vol. 109, pp. 2138, 2211) passed a bill for the relief of W. W. Elliott. In pencil are "S. 1480. Pocket." In ink appears "W. W." It is stamped

Department of State

Received Mar. 12, 1873.

Under this stamp is written in ink "at 2.50 P. M." On the left margin in red penciling is the word "War." At the bottom is written in pencil:

Pocketed 3857  
1480

See War

There are fifteen other unsigned bills of the same session in this volume at the State Department and each of them bears the same stamp of the State Department as on the bill for the relief of W. W. Elliott and the same addition in ink: "at 2.50 P. M."

The next bill of the same session is for the relief of Samuel S. Potter. On it is penciled:

H. R. 2803 Pocket

Another bill of that session is for the relief of Edward Berry, John McFall and William H. Judd. In ink are the letters "W. W." In pencil on the bill are the notations "S. 1109" and

This bill should *not* be signed

G. S. B.

Another bill of that session is for the relief of J. George Harris. On the top margin is written in pencil:

H. R. 3857. C. W. B. Pocket.

The word "War" was also on the margin.

There is a bill for the relief of David Braden, marked "S. 166."

There is a bill for the relief of Mrs. Louisa Eldis. It is marked:

H. R. 3878. C. W. B. War

On the back in blue pencil is written faintly the word

Pocketed.

The same session also passed "An act amendatory of an act authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Arkansas River." In ink on the margin are

S. 245. J. K. K.

The next bill in the book is one for the relief of Elias C. Boudinot. It is marked in pencil "H. R. 1868" and in ink "C. W. B." On the back, in pencil, are the words:

Not to be signed H. R. 1868

JUDGE RICHARDSON

The same session passed "An act to confirm certain land-titles in the State of Missouri." The margin contains the marks

H. R. #3731 C. W. B.

On the back of the bill in red pencil is the notation:

H. R. 3731

Pocket.

Then follows "An act for the relief of George S. Custin." In pencil on the margin is the notation "H. R. 3369."

There is also this stamp:

War  
1896 3 1878  
Dept