
REPORT ON POCKET VETO

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

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

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.

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

H. R. 32531 was received March 4. On the bill itself is penciled "Pocket."

The 62d Congress, second session, adjourned August 26, 1912. (Cong. Rec., vol. 48, pt. 11, pp. 11881, 11903) President Taft retained unsigned S. 2534, on which no date was stamped; and H. R. 21708, which was stamped as received on August 20, and to which is attached a memorandum reading:

Put on cabinet table tomorrow
W H T

The 62d Congress, third session, adjourned March 4, 1913, the Senate legislative day of March 3 and the House legislative day of March 1. (Cong. Rec., vol. 49, pt. 5, pp. 4842, 4856) President Taft retained unsigned two House bills.

H. R. 18213—received March 1, 1913. On a memorandum which is attached to the bill is the word "Pocket."

H. R. 23673—undated. Attached to the bill is the following type-written memorandum:

Memorandum to accompany H. R. 23673. An Act to promote the welfare of American seamen in the merchant marine of the United States; to abolish arrest and imprisonment as a penalty for desertion and to secure the abrogation of treaty provisions in relation thereto; and to promote safety at sea.

This bill is so important and conflicts in its operation with the treaty obligations of the United States and in its possible friction with the commerce of foreign countries that in the short time that I have had since it has been presented to me, I do not feel justified in assuming the responsibility of allowing it to become a law.

WM H TAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE
March 4, 1913.

At the end of the 64th Congress, first session, which adjourned September 8, 1916 (Cong. Rec., vol. 53, pt. 13, pp. 14154, 14173) President Wilson retained S. 708 without signing it. It is now at the Executive Offices. It bears a stamp-mark showing that it was received September 5, 1916.

At the end of the 64th Congress, second session, which adjourned March 4, 1917, the Senate legislative day, of March 2 and the House legislative day of March 3, (Cong. Rec., vol. 54, pt. 5, pp. 5020, 5033) President Wilson retained unsigned H. R. 20414. On the margin where the date of White House receipt is usually stamped are the figures 2/28/17. A slip of paper attached to the bill bears this penciled notation:

DEAR FORSTER.

I let this bill die. Please do what is usual with it.

W. W.

At the end of the 65th Congress, first session, which adjourned October 6, 1917 (Cong. Rec., vol. 55, pt. 8, pp. 7897, 7918) President Wilson retained unsigned H. J. Res. 116. No date of receipt is marked on it, and there are no marks on the resolution or on any attached memorandum.

At the end of the 66th Congress, second session, which adjourned June 5, 1920 (Cong. Rec., vol. 59, pt. 8, pp. 8644, 8679) President Wilson retained unsigned H. J. R. 373. It is stamped as received June 5. It is now at the Executive Offices. Memoranda at those offices say that the President also retained S. J. Res. 152 and H. R.