

lishment of Sutter's Fort, of what is today California's capital city of Sacramento, which establishment and the subsequent development of the region adjacent resulted in the discovery of gold at Coloma, California.

No Federal obligation.

SEC. 2. The Government of the United States is not by this resolution obligated to any expense in connection with the holding of such exposition.

Approved, May 12, 1939.

[CHAPTER 133]

AN ACT

To amend the statutes providing punishment for transmitting threatening communications.

May 15, 1939

[H. R. 3230]

[Public, No. 76]

Postal Service.

47 Stat. 649; 49 Stat. 427.
18 U. S. C. §§ 338a, 338b; Supp. IV, § 338a.

Deposit, etc., of certain threatening communications in mails.

Penalty.

Threat to kidnap, etc.

Penalty.

Extortion messages.

Penalty.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections 1 and 2 of the Act of July 8, 1932 (47 Stat. 649), as amended (U. S. C., title 18, secs. 338a and 338b), be, and the same are hereby, further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. (a) Whoever shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or station thereof, or in any authorized depository for mail matter, to be sent or delivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States, or shall knowingly cause to be delivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States according to the direction thereon, any written or printed letter or other communication, with or without a name or designating mark subscribed thereto, addressed to any other person, and containing any demand or request for ransom or reward for the release of any kidnaped person; or whoever, with intent to extort from any person any money or other thing of value, shall deposit, cause to be deposited, or cause to be delivered, as aforesaid, any letter or other communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of the addressee or of another, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

"(b) Whoever shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or station thereof, or in any authorized depository for mail matter, to be sent or delivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States, or shall knowingly cause to be delivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States according to the direction thereon, any written or printed letter or other communication with or without a name or designating mark subscribed thereto, addressed to any other person and containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of the addressee or of another shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

"(c) Whoever, with intent to extort from any person any money or other thing of value, shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or station thereof, or in any authorized depository for mail matter, to be sent or delivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States, or shall knowingly cause to be delivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States according to the direction thereon, any written or printed letter or other communication, with or without a name or designating mark subscribed thereto, addressed to any other person and containing any threat to injure the property or reputation of the addressee or of another, or the reputation of a deceased person, or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other person of a crime shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

“(d) Any person violating this section may be prosecuted in the judicial district in which such letter or other communication is deposited in such post office, station, or authorized depository for mail matter, or in the judicial district into which such letter or other communication was carried by the United States mail for delivery according to the direction thereon: *Provided*, That any defendant in an indictment hereunder, relating to communications originating in the United States, shall, upon motion duly made, be entitled as a matter of right to be tried in the district court of the United States in which the matter mailed or otherwise transmitted was first set in motion; that is, in the mails or in commerce between the States.

Prosecution.

Proviso.
Venue.

“SEC. 2. (a) Whoever shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or station thereof, or in any authorized depository for mail matter, of any foreign country any written or printed letter or other communication addressed to any person within the United States, for the purpose of having such communication delivered by the Post Office Establishment of such foreign country to the Post Office Establishment of the United States and by it delivered to such addressee in the United States, and as a result thereof such communication is delivered by the Post Office Establishment of such foreign country to the Post Office Establishment of the United States and by it delivered to the address to which it is directed in the United States, and containing any demand or request for ransom or reward for the release of any kidnaped person; or whoever, with intent to extort from any person any money or other thing of value, shall deposit or cause to be deposited, as aforesaid, any letter or other communication for the purpose aforesaid, containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of the addressee or of another, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

Deposit of threatening communications in foreign post office, etc., addressed to person in U. S.

Containing demand for ransom, etc.

Penalty.

“(b) Whoever shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or station thereof, or in any authorized depository for mail matter, of any foreign country any written or printed letter or other communication addressed to any person within the United States, for the purpose of having such communication delivered by the Post Office Establishment of such foreign country to the Post Office Establishment of the United States and by it delivered to such addressee in the United States, and as a result thereof such communication is delivered by the Post Office Establishment of such foreign country to the Post Office Establishment of the United States and by it delivered to the address to which it is directed in the United States, and containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of the addressee or of another, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

Containing threat to kidnap, etc.

Penalty.

“(c) Whoever, with intent to extort from any person any money or other thing of value, shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or station thereof, or in any authorized depository for mail matter, of any foreign country any written or printed letter or other communication, addressed to any person within the United States for the purpose of having such communication delivered by the Post Office Establishment of such foreign country to the Post Office Establishment of the United States and by it delivered to such addressee in the United States, and as a result thereof such communication is delivered by the Post Office Establishment of such foreign country to the Post Office Establishment of the United States and by it delivered to the address to which it is directed in the United States, and containing any threat to injure the property or reputation of the addressee or of another, or the reputation of a deceased person, or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other

Extortion messages.

Penalty.

person of a crime, shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

Prosecution.

“(d) Any person violating this section may be prosecuted either in the district into which such letter or other communication was carried by the United States mail for delivery according to the direction thereon, or in which it was caused to be delivered by the United States mail to the person to whom it was addressed: *Provided*, That any defendant in an indictment hereunder, relating to communications originating in the United States, shall, upon motion duly made, be entitled as a matter of right to be tried in the district court of the United States in which the matter mailed or otherwise transmitted was set first in motion; that is, in the mails or in commerce between the States.”

Proviso.
Venue.

Federal Kidnaping Act, amendments. 48 Stat. 781. 18 U. S. C. § 408d. Transmission in interstate commerce of demand for ransom for release of any kidnaped person.

Threat to kidnap or injure with intent to extort.

Penalty.

Transmission of threats to kidnap, etc.

Transmission of threats to injure property, etc., with intent to extort.

Penalty.

Prosecution.

Proviso.
Venue.

“Interstate commerce”, construed.

SEC. 2. That the Act of May 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 781; U. S. C., title 18, sec. 408d), be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

“(a) Whoever shall transmit in interstate commerce, by any means whatsoever, any communication containing any demand or request for a ransom or reward for the release of any kidnaped person; or whoever, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value, shall transmit, as aforesaid, any communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of another shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

“(b) Whoever shall transmit in interstate commerce by any means whatsoever any communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of another shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

“(c) Whoever, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value, shall transmit in interstate commerce by any means whatsoever any communication containing any threat to injure the property or reputation of the addressee or of another or the reputation of a deceased person or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other person of a crime shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

“(d) Any person violating the provisions of this section may be prosecuted in the judicial district from or into which such threat is transmitted, as aforesaid: *Provided*, That any defendant in an indictment hereunder, relating to communications originating in the United States, shall, upon motion duly made, be entitled as a matter of right to be tried in the district court of the United States in which the matter mailed or otherwise transmitted was set first in motion; that is, in the mails or in commerce between the States. The term ‘interstate commerce,’ as used in this section, shall include communication from one State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, to another State, Territory, or the District of Columbia.”

Approved, May 15, 1939.

[CHAPTER 134]

AN ACT

To authorize the mailing of pistols, revolvers, and other firearms capable of being concealed on the person, to officers of the Coast Guard.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act declaring pistols, revolvers, and other firearms capable of being concealed on the person nonmailable and

May 15, 1939

[H. R. 3231]

[Public, No. 77]

Firearms.
Conveyance in the mails to Coast Guard officers, authorized.