

water rights, as in his judgment are necessary and in the interests of the United States and the project.

Administration.

SEC. 15. The Secretary is hereby authorized to perform any and all acts and to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this Act into full force and effect.

Laws not inconsistent in full force.

SEC. 16. The provisions of previous Acts of Congress not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall remain in full force and effect.

Modification of existing contracts, duration of authority.

SEC. 17. (a) The authority granted in sections 3 and 4 of this Act for modification of existing repayment contracts or other forms of obligations to pay construction charges shall continue for five years from the date of this enactment in order to provide opportunity for negotiating and consummating said modifications and opportunity for enactment by the legislature of any State in which a project contract unit is located of any legislation which may be necessary to empower water users and organizations to execute and carry out the provisions of contracts entered into pursuant to the authority of this Act.

Time extensions for payment of construction charges, years 1939-1943.

(b) The authority of the Secretary under the Act entitled "An Act to authorize further relief to water users on United States and on Indian reclamation projects", approved May 31, 1939 (Public, Numbered 97, Seventy-sixth Congress, first session), is hereby extended in connection with the construction charges due and payable, under any existing obligation to pay construction charges, for each of the years 1939 to 1943, inclusive, to the extent such charges are not covered by modification of said obligation under section 3 or 4 of this Act.

Ante, p. 792.

Boulder Canyon Project Act, provisions not affected. 45 Stat. 1057. 43 U. S. C. §§ 617-617t. Short title.

SEC. 18. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to amend the Boulder Canyon Project Act (45 Stat. 1057), as amended.

SEC. 19. This Act may be cited as the "Reclamation Project Act of 1939".

Approved, August 4, 1939.

[CHAPTER 419]

AN ACT

August 4, 1939
[S. 1773]

[Public, No. 261]

To provide that no statute of limitations shall apply to offenses punishable by death.

Offenses punishable by death. Statute of limitations not to apply.

Offenses now barred by existing law.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That an indictment for any offense punishable by death may be found at any time without regard to any statute of limitations.

SEC. 2. This Act shall not authorize prosecution, trial, or punishment for any offense now barred by the provisions of existing law.

Approved, August 4, 1939.

[CHAPTER 420]

AN ACT

August 4, 1939
[S. 1558]

[Public, No. 262]

To provide for the acceptance of an easement with respect to certain lands in New Mexico, and for other purposes.

New Mexico. Acceptance of grant of perpetual easement with respect to certain lands in.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the grant of a perpetual easement to the United States Government and the Works Progress Administration pursuant to an instrument dated November 15, 1935, and recorded on December 22, 1936, for the construction and maintenance of a dam and reservoir in Bear Canyon, on the Mimbres River, in Grant County, New Mexico, located in

sections 28 and 29, township 16 south, range 11 west, New Mexico principal meridian, be, and the same hereby is, accepted.

SEC. 2. The Commissioner of Work Projects is hereby authorized and directed to acquire by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, such other lands and interests in land as he may deem necessary for use in connection with the maintenance of said dam and reservoir and to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 3. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this Act, the Commissioner of Work Projects is hereby authorized to use funds heretofore or hereafter appropriated to, or for, the Work Projects Administration.

Approved, August 4, 1939.

[CHAPTER 421]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the adjudication by a Commissioner of claims of American nationals against the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint a Commissioner learned in the law to determine the validity and amounts of the claims of American nationals against the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to fill any vacancy in the same manner that the original appointment was made.

SEC. 2. The salary of the Commissioner shall be at the rate of \$9,000 a year. He shall have a secretary and such additional legal, clerical, and other assistants as may be approved and appointed by the Secretary of State, and at such rates of compensation as may be fixed by him within the limits of appropriated funds. Such persons may be appointed without reference to civil-service laws and rules or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended.

SEC. 3. The Commissioner shall be allowed the necessary actual expenses of office rent, furniture, stationery, books, printing, travel expenses when on official business outside the city of Washington, and other incidental expenses which he may certify as necessary and which shall be approved by the Secretary of State.

SEC. 4. Before entering upon his duties the Commissioner shall take a solemn oath faithfully and impartially to examine the claims and to give his decisions in accordance with his best judgment and such principles of law as may be applicable. The decisions of the Commissioner shall be in writing, and shall be final and conclusive as to the merits of all cases decided. No claim within the Commissioner's jurisdiction which shall not have been presented to him within twelve months from the date he enters upon the duties of his office shall be considered by him.

SEC. 5. (a) The Commissioner shall perform his duties in the city of Washington beginning within a period of fifteen days from the date of his appointment. He shall as soon as practicable make all necessary rules and regulations not inconsistent with this resolution or the laws of the United States, governing the method of procedure before him in carrying into effect the provisions of this resolution.

(b) For the purpose of any investigation which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act, he is empowered to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, take evidence, and require the production of books, papers, or other documents which he considers relevant to any case within his jurisdiction. Any person knowingly and willfully swearing or affirming falsely in any such proceedings shall be deemed guilty of

Acquisition of other lands.

Use of funds authorized.

August 4, 1939
[H. J. Res. 315]
[Pub. Res., No. 36]

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
Adjudication of claims against Government of.
Appointment of Commissioner.

Commissioner's salary; secretary and other assistants.

5 U. S. C. §§ 661-674; Supp. IV, §§ 673, 673c.

Expense allowances.

Oath of office.

Decisions.

Time limitation for filing claims.

Location of office, method of procedure, etc.

Administration of oaths.

Perjury.