

Water supply line.

(h) Acquisition of rights-of-way and construction and maintenance of a water supply line partly outside the boundaries of Mesa Verde National Park.

Telephone service.

(i) Official telephone service in the field in the case of official telephones installed in private houses when authorized under regulations established by the Secretary.

Approved August 7, 1946.

## [CHAPTER 789]

## AN ACT

For the relief of certain postmasters.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Comptroller General of the United States is authorized and directed to allow credit for payments of per diem made by postmasters acting under direction of the First Assistant Postmaster General to postal employees detailed to postal units at camps, posts, or stations to handle military mail or at civilian plants devoted to war production at rates not to exceed that provided and authorized by the Act of December 7, 1945, Public Law 249, the credit to be allowed notwithstanding that the payments were made on orders issued retroactively by the Postmaster General.

Approved August 7, 1946.

## [CHAPTER 790]

## AN ACT

To clarify the rights of former owners of real property to reacquire such property under the Surplus Property Act of 1944.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 23 (a) (1) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944 is amended to read as follows:

"(1) The term 'real property' means property consisting of land, together with any fixtures and improvements thereon (including hotels, apartment houses, hospitals, office buildings, stores, and other commercial structures) located outside the District of Columbia, but does not include (A) commercial structures constructed by, at the direction of, or on behalf of any Government agency, (B) commercial structures which the Administrator determines have been made an integral part of a functional or economic unit which should be disposed of as a whole, and (C) war housing, industrial plants, factories, airports, airport facilities, or similar structures and facilities, or the sites thereof, or land which the Administrator determines essential to the use of any of the foregoing; and"

SEC. 2. Section 23 (c) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"The classification of property by the Administrator (including the determination of whether property is 'real property' as defined in this section) shall be based on the highest and best use of the property at the time it is reported as surplus property regardless of its former character or use."

SEC. 3. The Secretary of War and the War Assets Administration are authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary (A) to reinstate the leasehold covering the Chamberlin Hotel, Fort Monroe, Old Point Comfort, Virginia, and its appurtenant land, buildings, utilities, and facilities, which leasehold, with all the furnishings and equipment used in connection therewith, was acquired

August 7, 1946

[H. R. 6642]

[Public Law 634]

Credit for per diem payments.

59 Stat. 603.  
39 U. S. C., Supp.  
V, § 133 note.

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[H. R. 6702]

[Public Law 635]

Surplus Property Act of 1944, amendment.

58 Stat. 777.  
50 U. S. C., Supp.  
V, app. § 1632.  
"Real property."

*Supra.*

Classification of property.

Reinstatement of leasehold covering Chamberlin Hotel.

on December 30, 1941, by the Department of the Navy, and on December 20, 1945, declared by the Department of the Navy to be surplus to its needs and responsibilities; and (B) to convey and sell, to the former owner or owners authorized under this section to be the lessee under the reinstated leasehold, all of the right, title, and interest in and to such hotel, land, buildings, utilities, furnishings, and equipment, which existed in the person who was the lessee prior to such acquisition by the Department of the Navy. The former owner or owners for the purposes of this section shall be either (i) those persons who on December 30, 1941, owned bonds to secure payment of which the property was then held by a trustee, and who, within sixty days after the date of first publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is situated, as hereinafter provided, commit themselves, in such manner as the War Assets Administrator may prescribe, to participate in the acquisition of the property, the participation by each such person to be in the proportion which the face amount of the bonds owned by such person on December 30, 1941, is of the aggregate face amount of such bonds owned by all of the participants, or (ii) a corporation all of the shares of which (except qualifying shares) are owned in like proportion by the persons making such commitments. Notice of the right of such persons to have the benefits of this section shall be given by publication in the Federal Register, publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is situated, and by any other means which may be deemed appropriate by the War Assets Administrator. The leasehold shall contain the same terms and conditions as that which was in effect immediately prior to the acquisition of the property by the Department of the Navy, and upon the reinstatement thereof shall be subject to all of the provisions of Public Resolution 71, Sixty-seventh Congress (42 Stat. 843), as if such acquisition by the Department of the Navy had not taken place. The consideration to be paid to the United States for reinstating such leasehold and for such conveyance and sale to the former owner or owners shall be a price not greater than that for which the property was acquired by the United States. Such acquisition price being properly adjusted to reflect any increase or decrease in the value of the property resulting from action by the United States, or a price equal to the market price at the time of sale, whichever price is the lower. This section shall cease to be in effect unless, within six months from the date of the enactment of this Act, the former owner or owners pay or tender the consideration prescribed in this section for the reinstatement of the leasehold and for such conveyance and sale.

Former owner.

Notice.

Terms and conditions.

Acquisition price.

Time limitation.

Approved August 7, 1946.

## [CHAPTER 791]

## AN ACT

To establish and provide for the maintenance and operation of a Veterans' Canteen Service in the Veterans' Administration, and for other purposes.

August 7, 1946  
[H. R. 6836]  
[Public Law 636]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there is hereby established in the Veterans' Administration an instrumentality of the United States to be known as the Veterans' Canteen Service, hereinafter called the Service, for the primary purpose of making available to veterans of the armed forces of the United States who are hospitalized or domiciled in hospitals and homes of the Veterans' Administration, at reasonable prices, articles of merchandise and services essential to their comfort and well-being.

Veterans' Canteen Service.