

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.

SEC. 2. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, hereinafter called the Administrator, is authorized and directed—

Establishment  
at hospitals, etc.

(a) To establish, maintain, and operate canteens where deemed necessary and practicable at hospitals and homes of the Veterans' Administration and at other Veterans' Administration establishments where similar essential facilities are not reasonably available from outside commercial sources.

Warehouses, etc.

(b) To establish, maintain, and operate such warehouses and storage depots as may be necessary in operating the canteens.

Free space, etc.

(c) To furnish the Service, without charge, rental, or reimbursement, for its use in connection with the establishment, maintenance, and operation thereof, such space, buildings, and structures under control of the Veterans' Administration as he may consider necessary, including normal maintenance and repair service thereon.

Free equipment, etc.

(d) To furnish the Service for its use such equipment, utilities, and service, including light, water, and heat, as may be available and necessary for such use, without charge, rental, or reimbursement except that reasonable charges shall be paid by the Service for electricity and gas furnished for purposes of cooking, refrigeration, and power.

Electricity and gas.

Personnel.

(e) To employ such persons as are necessary for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Service. Personnel necessary for the transaction of the business of the Service at canteens, warehouses, and storage depots shall be appointed, compensated from funds of the Service, and removed by the Administrator without regard to civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1923, as amended: *Provided*, That such employees shall be subject to the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, the Civil Service Retirement Acts, and laws administered by the United States Employees' Compensation Commission applicable to civilian employees of the United States. Personnel, other than those employed at canteens, warehouses, and storage depots, shall be employed and paid from Veterans' Administration appropriations for salaries and expenses as normal Veterans' Administration employees and assigned, detailed, or loaned to the Service without reimbursement by the Service.

42 Stat. 1488.  
5 U. S. C. §§ 661-674;  
Supp. V, § 661 *et seq.*  
*Ante*, pp. 216, 219.  
58 Stat. 387.  
5 U. S. C., Supp.  
V, §§ 851-869.

Purchase contracts,  
etc.

(f) To make all necessary contracts or agreements to purchase or sell merchandise, fixtures, equipment, supplies, and services, without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (41 U. S. C. 5), and to do all things necessary to carry out such contracts or agreements, including the making of necessary adjustments and compromising of claims in connection therewith.

*Ante*, p. 809.

Fixing of prices.

(g) To fix the prices of merchandise and services in canteens so as to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Gifts and donations.

(h) To accept gifts and donations of merchandise, fixtures, equipment, and supplies for the use and benefit of the Service.

Rules and regula-  
tions.

(i) To make such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as he considers necessary or appropriate to effectuate its purposes.

Delegation of duties,  
etc.

(j) To delegate such duties and powers to employees as he considers necessary or appropriate, whose official acts performed within the scope of the delegated authority shall have the same force and effect as though performed by the Administrator.

Service to hospital-  
ized veterans, etc.

SEC. 3. (a) The canteens at hospitals and homes of the Veterans' Administration shall be primarily for the use and benefit of veterans hospitalized or domiciled at such hospitals and homes. Service at such canteens may also be furnished to personnel of the Veterans' Administration and recognized veterans' organizations employed at such hospitals and homes and to other persons so employed, to the families of all the foregoing persons who reside at the hospital or home concerned, and to relatives and other persons while visiting any of the

persons named in this subsection : *Provided*, That service to any person not hospitalized, domiciled, or residing at the hospital or home shall be limited to the sale of merchandise or services for consumption or use on the premises.

(b) Service at canteens other than those established at hospitals and homes shall be limited to sales of merchandise and services for consumption or use on the premises, to personnel employed at such establishments, their visitors, and other persons at such establishments on official business.

SEC. 4. To finance the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Service there is hereby authorized to be appropriated from time to time such amounts as are necessary to provide for (a) the acquisition of necessary furniture, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of canteens, warehouses, and storage depots; (b) stocks of merchandise and supplies for canteens and reserve stocks of same in warehouses and storage depots; (c) salaries, wages, and expenses of employees; (d) administrative and operation expenses; and (e) adequate working capital for each canteen and for the Service as a whole. Amounts appropriated under the authority contained in this Act and all income from canteen operations become and will be administered as a revolving fund to effectuate the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. The revolving fund shall be deposited in a checking account with the Treasurer of the United States: *Provided*, That such amounts thereof as the Administrator may determine to be necessary to establish and maintain operating accounts for the various canteens may be deposited in checking accounts in other depositories selected by the Administrator.

SEC. 6. The Service shall prepare annually and submit a budget program as provided for wholly owned Government corporations by the Government Corporation Control Act which shall contain an estimate of the needs of the Service for the ensuing fiscal year including an estimate of the amount required to restore any impairment of the revolving fund resulting from operations of the current fiscal year. Any balance in the revolving fund at the close of the fiscal year in excess of the estimated requirements for the ensuing fiscal year shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

SEC. 7. The Service shall maintain an integral set of accounts which shall be audited annually by the General Accounting Office in accordance with the principles and procedures applicable to commercial transactions as provided by the Government Corporation Control Act. No other audit shall be required.

SEC. 8. It is the purpose of this Act that, under control and supervision of the Administrator, the Service shall function as an independent unit in the Veterans' Administration and shall have exclusive control over all its activities including sales, procurement and supply, finance, including disbursements, and personnel management, except as otherwise herein provided.

Approved August 7, 1946.

Service at other canteens.

Appropriations authorized. *Ante*, p. 616.

Revolving fund.

Deposits.

Budget program.

59 Stat. 597. 31 U. S. C., Supp. V, §§ 841-869.

Accounts.

*Supra*.

Function; control.

[CHAPTER 792]

AN ACT

To amend section 121 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a code of law for the District of Columbia", approved March 3, 1901, as amended, to authorize the appointment of three additional deputies for the register of wills.

August 7, 1946 [H. R. 6859] [Public Law 637]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 121 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a code of law for the District of

Register of wills. Additional deputies.