67 Stat. 5.

SEC. 2. (a) Clause (1) of section 2 of such Act of June 23, 1949, as amended (2 U. S. C., sec. 46g), is amended by striking out "1,800" both times it appears therein and inserting in lieu thereof "3,000".

68 Stat. 402.

(b) The eighth paragraph under the subheading "Contingent Expenses of the House" under the heading "House of Representatives" in the Legislative Appropriation Act, 1955, is amended by striking out ": *Provided*, That effective July 1, 1954, the number of minutes of official long-distance telephone calls allowed each Member shall not exceed 2,700 per annum".

(c) Clause (2) of section 2 of such Act of June 23, 1949, is amended to read as follows:

"(2) charges on strictly official telegrams, cablegrams, and radiograms sent by or on behalf of the Member aggregating during the year not more than 20,000 words of which not more than 2,000 may be in telegrams, cablegrams, and radiograms sent to or from a point outside the United States, or its Territories or possessions except that if a Member is elected for a portion of a term the aggregate number of words with respect to which charges may be paid under the first section shall be reduced, with respect to the year in which he commences his service, to a number which is the same percentage of 20,000 as the number of days of his service in such year is of the total number of days in such year."

Effective date.

SEC. 3. The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as of noon on January 3, 1956.

Approved February 27, 1956.

Public Law 423 CHAPTER 75

March 1, 1956
[S. 926]

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the Ventura River reclamation project, California.

Ventura River project, Calif.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purpose of supplying water for the irrigation of lands in Ventura County, California, and for municipal, domestic, and industrial use therein, and for other incidental beneficial purposes, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to construct, operate, and maintain the Ventura River reclamation project comprising, as its principal works, Casitas Dam and Reservoir on Coyote Creek, Robles diversion dam on Ventura River, a canal to carry water from the Robles diversion dam to Casitas Reservoir, and other conduits and related facilities to deliver water to the lands and area to be served by the project.

Construction, etc.

43 USC 371 note.

SEC. 2. (a) In constructing, operating, and maintaining the Ventura River project, the Secretary shall be governed by the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto) except as is otherwise provided in this Act.

Allocation of costs.

(b) In furnishing water for irrigation and for municipal, domestic, and industrial uses from the Ventura River project the Secretary shall charge rates with the object of returning to the United States during a fifty-year payment period (including any development period) all of the costs incurred by it in constructing, operating, and maintaining the project which the Secretary finds to be properly allocable to the purposes aforesaid and of interest, as hereinafter provided, on the portion of the construction cost which is allocated to municipal, domestic, and industrial water.

(c) Any contract entered into under section 9, subsection (d), of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (53 Stat. 1187, 1193, 43 U. S. C., sec. 485 (h)) for payment of those portions of the costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Ventura River project which are allocated to irrigation and assigned to be paid by the contracting organization may provide for the repayment of the portion of the construction cost of the project assigned to any project contract unit or, if the contract unit be divided into two or more irrigation blocks, to any such block over a period of not more than fifty years or as near thereto as is consistent with the adoption and operation of a variable payment formula which, being based on full repayment within the period stated under normal conditions, permits variance in the required annual payments in the light of economic factors pertinent to the ability of the organization to pay.

Repayment contracts.

43 USC 485h.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, all net revenues derived by the Secretary from the furnishing of water for municipal, domestic, and industrial use shall be applied first to the amortization of that portion of the cost of constructing the Ventura River project which is allocated to that purpose with interest on the unamortized balance thereof at the average rate (which rate shall be certified by the Secretary of the Treasury) paid by the United States on its marketable long-term securities outstanding on the date of this Act and thereafter to the amortization of that portion of the cost of constructing the project which is allocated to irrigation but which is beyond the ability of the irrigation water users or their contracting organization to repay as provided above.

(e) The Secretary is authorized, subject to such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to turn over to any contracting organization or to an organization which is designated by it for that purpose and which is satisfactory to the Secretary the care, operation, and maintenance of such portions of the Ventura River project as are used solely or principally for the benefit of that organization.

(f) Minimum basic facilities may be provided for the accommodation of the visiting public at Casitas Dam and, if responsible local interests agree to assume the operation and maintenance thereof, at the project reservoirs. The costs of such facilities shall be nonreimbursable.

Minimum basic facilities.

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for construction of the Ventura River project the sum of $27,600,000 plus such amounts, if any, as may be required by reason of changes in construction costs as may be indicated by engineering cost indices applicable to the types of construction involved herein and, in addition thereto, such sums as may be required to operate and maintain the project.

Appropriation.

Approved March 1, 1956.

Public Law 424 CHAPTER 76

AN ACT

March 1, 1956
[H. R. 8101]

To authorize the Secretary of the Army to give twenty-five World War II paintings to the Government of New Zealand.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the Secretary of the Army is authorized to transfer to the Government of New Zealand without compensation twenty-five German war paintings depicting New Zealand troops which are now the property of the United States in the custody of the Secretary of the Army.

New Zealand.
World War II paintings.