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REPORT ON POCKET VETO

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MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A MEMORANDUM PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REGARDING BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT LESS THAN 10 DAYS BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS AND NOT SIGNED BY HIM

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DECEMBER 22, 1928.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE, *December 22, 1928.*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am transmitting herewith for the information of the Congress a memorandum prepared in the office of the Attorney General regarding bills presented to the President less than ten days before the adjournment of Congress and not signed by him.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
*Washington, October 10, 1928.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In re bills presented to the President less than ten days before the adjournment of Congress and not signed by him. In the case of each such bill, what was done with the engrossed copy of the bill, and what communication or memorandum was made in connection with such disposition?

Such unsigned bills are found in four places: in the custody of the Secretary of the Senate; in the custody of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress (where Presidential messages to the House of Representatives prior to the Civil War have been deposited); in the

where the death was I am afraid much more remotely connected with army disability.

But I do not feel that I can sign a bill directing a pension be awarded only and expressly upon the theory that death was not chargeable to military service. This would not only make what is called a pension an admitted granting of gifts but would set a precedent of the most dangerous kind and fraught with deplorable results.

G. C.

MCH 2/89

The 51st Congress, first session, adjourned October 1, 1890. (Cong. Rec., vol. 21, pt. 11, pp. 10773, 10799) President Harrison retained unsigned 10 Senate bills and 1 House bill. They are now at the Executive Offices.

S. 117 was stamped as received at Executive Mansion Sept. 24, 1890. The President made no marks on the bill nor on any attached memoranda.

S. 125 was stamped as received Sept. 30. On a printed committee report which is attached to the bill is the penciled notation in handwriting which appears to be that of the President:

Let it die—for reasons given in Portland Co. case.

S. 145. No date stamped on bill. On bill itself in pencil are the words "Let it die." This appears to be in the President's handwriting.

S. 968. Stamped Sep. 30, 1890. Attached to it is a committee report and on it in pencil in writing which is apparently that of President Harrison are the words "Let this die for reasons given in Portland Co. veto."

S. 1187. Received September 29. On the committee report which is attached are written the words "Let it die—Veto in Portland case"

S. 1552. Received September 26. On a typewritten report which is attached is written in ink in President's handwriting "Let this bill die"

S. 2531. Received September 29. A typewritten report is attached. On it in pencil in writing which appears to be that of the President are the words "Claimant dead—Let the bill die"

S. 270. Received September 30. A committee report is attached. On it in pencil is written "Let Die—see Portland veto—"

S. 3414. Received September 26. There is a typewritten report attached. On it in pencil is written "Let this case die—"

S. 3721. There is no date stamped on the bill; and no writing on bill or on any attached paper.

H. R. 4367. Received September 29. This was approved and signed in ink by the President. Then approval and signature were erased.

The 51st Congress, second session, adjourned March 4, 1891. Three Senate and eight House bills are unsigned and are now at the Executive Offices.

S. 395—received Feb. 28, 1891.

S. 712—received Feb. 23.

S. 4749—received Feb. 23.

H. R. 174—received Mar. 3.

H. R. 2001—received Mar. 3. Attached to it is a typewritten report on which is written in pencil "Let it die"