

approved March 11, 1941, as amended, is amended by striking out "June 30, 1944" wherever it appears therein and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1945"; by striking out "July 1, 1947" and inserting in lieu thereof "July 1, 1948"; and by striking out "July 1, 1944" and inserting in lieu thereof "July 1, 1945"; and subsection (b) of section 6 of such Act is amended by striking out "June 30, 1947" and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1948".

SEC. 2. Subsection (b) of section 3 is amended by striking out the period after the word "satisfactory" and inserting the following: "Provided, however, That nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize the President to assume or incur any obligations on the part of the United States with respect to post-war economic policy, post-war military policy or any post-war policy involving international relations except in accordance with established constitutional procedure."

Approved May 17, 1944.

[CHAPTER 199]

AN ACT

To amend the Act of April 29, 1943, to authorize the return to private ownership of Great Lakes vessels and vessels of one thousand gross tons or less, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the return to private ownership of certain vessels formerly used or suitable for use in the fisheries or industries related thereto", approved April 29, 1943 (Public Law 44, Seventy-eighth Congress; 57 Stat. 69), is amended to read as follows: "That any vessel formerly used or suitable for use in the fisheries or industries related thereto, any vessel of one thousand gross tons (determined in accordance with the provisions of section 77 of title 46 of the United States Code) or less, and any vessel employed on the Great Lakes during the year preceding its acquisition by the United States, the title to which has been or may hereafter be acquired by the United States through purchase or requisition except any vessel seventeen years of age or older traded in under the provisions of section 510, Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, or any other provision of law may be returned to private ownership in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

"SEC. 2. Every such vessel shall, upon determination by the department or agency having possession thereof that the vessel is no longer needed or can be spared by such department or agency without detriment to its service, be made available to the Administrator of the War Shipping Administration (hereinafter referred to as the Administrator), who shall notify the owner from whom such vessel was purchased or requisitioned that the vessel may be returned to such owner upon repayment to the United States of the compensation paid therefor less such allowances as the Administrator may deem reasonable (1) to cover the cost of such reconditioning as the Administrator after consultation with the owner deems necessary to restore the vessel to condition and utility at least as good as when acquired by the United States (ordinary wear and tear excepted), and (2) to compensate such owner for the use of the vessel by the United States, and upon compliance with such other terms and conditions as the Administrator may prescribe. The determination of such allowances by the Administrator shall be final notwithstanding any other provision of law.

Time extension.  
55 Stat. 32, 33; 57 Stat. 20.  
22 U. S. C., Supp. III, §§ 412 (c), 415 (b).

55 Stat. 32.  
22 U. S. C., Supp. III, § 412 (b).

Obligations involving post-war policy.

May 18, 1944  
[H. R. 3261]  
[Public Law 305]

Return to private ownership of certain vessels.

50 U. S. C., Supp. III, app. §§ 1301-1304.

Exception.

53 Stat. 1183.  
46 U. S. C. § 1160; Supp. III, § 1160 note.

Notification by War Shipping Administration.

Return of vessel, requirement.

Disposition if owner fails to redeem.

"SEC. 3. If any such owner to whom compensation has been paid or a tender of compensation has been made shall fail, within a reasonable time after notice (which time shall be specified in the notice but may be extended by the Administrator) to make arrangements satisfactory to the Administrator for such return of the vessel or shall expressly waive the right thereto, the Administrator may advertise the vessel for sale upon competitive sealed bids subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may prescribe, including in the case of any vessel used in the commercial fisheries or industries related thereto immediately prior to the acquisition of such vessel by the United States, a requirement that the vessel will not be used for a period of two years from date of sale, other than in the commercial fisheries or industries related thereto: *Provided, however,* That the Administrator may reject any bid which does not equal the purchase price or compensation paid or payable by the United States for such vessel less a reasonable allowance to cover the cost of reconditioning as hereinabove defined.

Rejection of certain bids.

Deduction for expenses.

"SEC. 4. The Administrator may withhold from the funds received for the return or sale of any such vessel the expenses incurred by him in such return or sale, and shall pay over the balance of such receipts to the department or agency by which such vessel was made available."

Approved May 18, 1944.

[CHAPTER 200]

AN ACT

Relating to the appointment of postmasters.

May 20, 1944  
[H. R. 1565]  
[Public Law 306]

Postal Service.  
Appointment of postmasters.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That no postmaster at an office of the fourth class shall be required, in the event such office is advanced to the third class, to pass any competitive or noncompetitive examination as a condition to appointment or service as postmaster at the office so advanced; and no postmaster at an office of the third class shall be required, in the event such office is relegated to the fourth class, to pass any competitive or noncompetitive examination as a condition to appointment or service as postmaster at the office so relegated; and any postmaster or acting postmaster of the fourth or third class who has passed a civil-service examination at any time and has given service satisfactory to the Department may be reappointed without further civil-service examination.

Approved May 20, 1944.

[CHAPTER 201]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide assistance to farmers whose property was destroyed or damaged, in whole or in part, by floods and windstorms in 1944, in order to enable them to continue farming operations to produce food for the war effort.

May 20, 1944  
[H. J. Res. 280]  
[Public Law 307]

Flood and wind-storm damage.  
Assistance to farmers.  
57 Stat. 542.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the balance of the appropriation of \$15,000,000 made in the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1943, for 1943 flood restoration loans, is hereby also made available until June 30, 1945, to enable the Secretary of Agriculture, in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, to make loans and grants to farmers whose property is destroyed or damaged by floods and windstorms (not to exceed \$1,000,000 in the