

of War and the Secretary of the Navy, respectively: *Provided further*, That all such appointees are otherwise qualified for admission: *And provided further*, That appointees under this Act shall be selected in order of merit as established by competitive examination."

Approved November 24, 1945.

## [CHAPTER 494]

## AN ACT

To include stepparents, parents by adoption, and any person who has stood in loco parentis among those persons with respect to whom allowances may be paid under the Pay Readjustment Act of 1942, and for other purposes.

November 24, 1945  
[H. R. 2525]  
[Public Law 230]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 4 of the Pay Readjustment Act of 1942 (56 Stat. 361), as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph: "As used in this section, the terms 'father', 'mother', 'parent', and 'parents' shall include a stepparent, a parent by adoption, and any person, including a former stepparent, who has stood in loco parentis to the person concerned at any time for a continuous period of not less than five years: *Provided*, That a stepparent-stepchild relationship shall be deemed to be terminated by the stepparent's divorce from the blood parent."

Pay Readjustment Act of 1942, amendment.  
37 U. S. C., Supp. IV, § 104.  
Person standing in loco parentis.

SEC. 2. This Act shall become effective on the first day of the first calendar month occurring after its enactment. No pay or allowances for any period prior to the effective date of this Act shall accrue by reason of the enactment of this Act.

Effective date.

Approved November 24, 1945.

## [CHAPTER 495]

## AN ACT

To provide for the extension of certain oil and gas leases.

November 30, 1945  
[S. 1459]  
[Public Law 231]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the last sentence in the first section of the Act entitled "An Act to grant a preference right to certain oil and gas leases", approved July 29, 1942, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows: "The term of any five-year lease expiring prior to December 31, 1946, maintained in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements and regulations and for which no preference right to a new lease is granted by this section, is hereby extended to December 31, 1946."

56 Stat. 726.  
30 U. S. C., Supp. IV, § 226b.

Approved November 30, 1945.

## [CHAPTER 496]

## AN ACT

To amend section 4 of the Act entitled "An Act for the control of floods on the Mississippi River and its tributaries and for other purposes", approved May 15, 1928.

November 30, 1945  
[H. R. 1902]  
[Public Law 232]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 4 of the Act entitled "An Act for the control of floods on the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and for other purposes", approved May 15, 1928 (45 Stat. 536; 33 U. S. C. 702d), is hereby amended by deleting the words "In all such proceedings the court, for the purpose of ascertaining the value of the property and assessing the compensation to be paid, shall appoint three commissioners, whose award, when confirmed by the court, shall be final", and substituting therefor the words, "In

Flood control, Mississippi River.

Condemnation proceedings.