

[CHAPTER 78]

AN ACT

To limit the time within which the General Accounting Office shall make final settlement of the monthly or quarterly accounts of fiscal officers, and for other purposes.

May 19, 1947
[S. 273]
[Public Law 72]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, effective three years after the date of enactment of this Act, the monthly or quarterly accounts of any disbursing, accountable, or certifying officer of the Government shall be settled by the General Accounting Office within a period of not to exceed three years from the date of the receipt of the account by the General Accounting Office. A copy of the certificate of settlement in each case shall be sent to the officer involved and such settlement shall be final and conclusive on the General Accounting Office after the expiration of three years from the date of receipt of the account to the extent that no further charges or debts shall be raised in such account thereafter except as to moneys which have been or may be lost to the United States due to fraud or criminality on the part of said officer: *Provided,* That nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit recovery from any payee of public moneys illegally or erroneously paid to such payee or to preclude the recovery from the disbursing, accountable, or certifying officer or his surety of any balance found due the Government under a settlement made within the period of three years as herein provided: *Provided further,* That nothing herein shall be construed to deprive any such officer of his right at any time to clear his accounts of questioned items in accordance with the provisions of existing law: *Provided further,* That the period of limitation above prescribed shall be regarded as suspended for the duration of any future war in which the United States may be engaged.

Period for settlement of monthly or quarterly accounts by GAO.

Certificate of settlement.

Recovery of illegal payments, etc.

Clearance of questioned items.

Suspension.

Approved May 19, 1947.

[CHAPTER 79]

AN ACT

Authorizing the reduction of certain accrued interest charges payable by the Farmers' Irrigation District, North Platte project.

May 19, 1947
[H. R. 804]
[Public Law 73]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized in administering the North Platte project, Nebraska-Wyoming, to enter into a contract modifying the contract of July 15, 1927, heretofore entered into pursuant to the Act of February 21, 1911 (36 Stat. 925), between the United States and the Farmers' Irrigation District, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Nebraska, whereby the said district shall be relieved and excused of the obligation to pay \$59,853, representing part of the accrued interest due the United States from the district pursuant to the terms of article 2 (c) of said contract of July 15, 1927: *Provided,* That the district agrees, on terms satisfactory to the Secretary, to operate and maintain the several drain diversion works now or hereafter to be constructed emptying waste, seepage, and return flow waters into the district's canal.

Farmers' Irrigation District, North Platte project.

43 U. S. C. §§ 523-525.

Operation, etc., of drain diversion works.

Approved May 19, 1947.

[CHAPTER 80]

AN ACT

May 19, 1947
[H. R. 1098]

[Public Law 74]

To authorize the segregation and expenditure of trust funds held in joint ownership by the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation.

Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes, Wind River Reservation.
Division of trust funds.

Outstanding loans.

Establishment of trust fund accounts.

Interest.

Division of future revenues.

Availability of trust funds.

Per capita payments.

Claims against payments.

25 U. S. C. § 386a.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to divide the trust funds on deposit in the Treasury of the United States to the joint credit of the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming, including the unexpended balance of the treaty funds arising under section 12 of the Act of June 7, 1897 (30 Stat. 93), between the Shoshone Tribe and the Arapaho Tribe, crediting one-half of the total amount in the principal account to a principal trust fund account and one-half of the total amount in the interest account to an interest trust fund account for each tribe: *Provided,* That in dividing the funds there shall be taken into consideration in determining the amount to be credited to each tribe the outstanding loans made from joint trust funds to the Indians of each tribe.

SEC. 2. The Comptroller of the United States, upon request of the Secretary of the Interior, is authorized and directed to establish a trust fund account for each tribe and the Secretary of the Treasury shall make such transfer of funds on the books of his department as may be necessary to effect the purpose of section 1 of this Act: *Provided,* That interest shall accrue on the principal fund only, at the rate of 4 per centum per annum, and shall be credited to the interest trust fund accounts established by this section: *Provided further,* That all future revenues derived from the Wind River Reservation under existing law shall be divided in accordance with section 1 of this Act and credited to the principal trust fund accounts established herein.

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of existing law, the trust funds credited to the Shoshone Tribe and the Arapaho Tribe, respectively, under the provisions of this Act shall be available for expenditure or for advance to the tribe for such purposes as may be requested by the tribal council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior or such official as may be designated by him: *Provided,* That two-thirds of said trust funds as initially established, and two-thirds of all sums credited thereto during a period of five years from and after the enactment of this Act, shall be paid on the first day of September and the first day of March each year, per capita, to the individual members of said tribes, and any sums distributed per capita out of the funds described in section 1 of this Act on or after April 1, 1947, shall be taken into consideration in determining the sums to be distributed under this proviso to the same effect as if this Act had been in force on and after April 1, 1947: *Provided further,* That said per capita payments shall not be subject to any lien or claim of any nature against any of the members of said tribes unless the tribal council of such member shall consent thereto in writing, except as to reimbursable Treasury loans made to individual members of either tribe which may be due to the United States, and except as to irrigation charges owed by individual Indians to the United States, but this latter exception shall not become operative until a report upon irrigation charges within the Wind River Irrigation Project has been made and becomes effective in accordance with the Act of July 1, 1932 (ch. 369, 47 Stat. 564).

Approved May 19, 1947.