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INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES OF DELAY IN COMPLETING
THE WORK OF THE FIRST SESSION OF
THE FIFTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 175,
Fifty-ninth Congress, First Session.

REPORT OF ALBERT H. HOWE,
Clerk Committee on Printing, United States Senate.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
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California Academy of Sciences

Presented by Sen. George C. Perkins

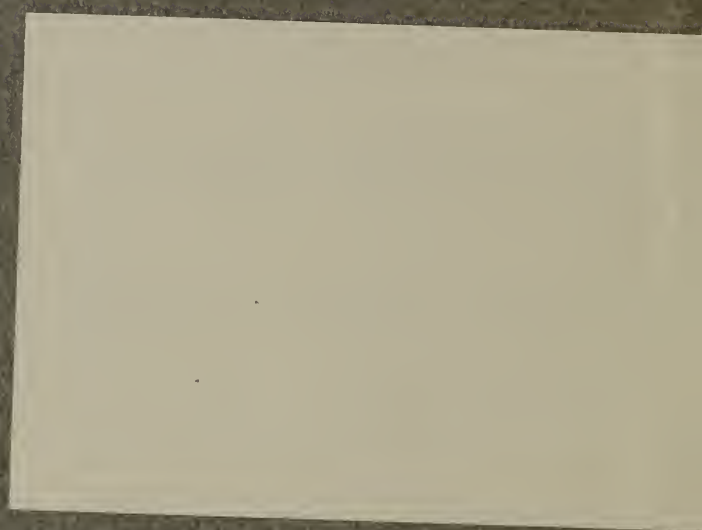
November 28, 1906.

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INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES OF DELAY IN COMPLETING THE WORK
OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
August 15, 1906.

HON. T. C. PLATT,
*Chairman Committee on Printing,
U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: By your direction and in pursuance of the provisions of Senate resolution No. 175, first session, Fifty-ninth Congress, wherein the Committee on Printing is "directed to inquire into the reasons for the delay in the Government Printing Office in sending to the Senate, especially in the last days of the session, printed copies of bills and joint resolutions pending and awaiting action on the part of Congress," I visited Washington and conducted as thorough an investigation as was possible under the terms of the resolution. Considerable testimony was taken, calculated to define the procedure of handling bills and to reveal the causes of the alleged delays of which complaint had been made, a transcription of which testimony is hereto annexed.

Attention is respectfully drawn to the character of the resolution under which the investigation has been conducted, which, by its failure to empower your committee to summon witnesses, places at your disposal in many cases second-hand testimony leading to inference rather than to proven fact. The absence of some necessary witnesses and the disinclination of others to testify has served in several instances to hamper and circumscribe the action of your committee. Again, the absence of provision for the defrayment of the expense of the investigation will necessitate provision hereafter for the payment of stenographic and other services.

At the risk of being didactic, the results of this inquiry will be better understood by illustrating at the outset the processes involved in the handling of supply bills by Congress; and in the illustration of these processes it will be interesting to note the frequency with which the functions of the Government Printing Office are exercised and the respects in which the work of that office is accelerated or impeded by the character of the engrossing and enrolling work of Congress.

It is understood that an appropriation or supply bill invariably originates in a subcommittee of a House committee. During the progress of consideration by the House subcommittee such bills are frequently printed confidentially once or several times for the use of the subcommittee, and when such a bill has attained the form in which the subcommittee determines finally to report to the full committee, the tentative measure is definitely though confidentially printed for report to the full committee.

The full committee ratify or amend the work of the subcommittee and, taking the print supplied by the Government Printing Office

for this purpose, report a ratified or amended draft of the measure to the House of Representatives, which reported bill is given a number, and following which the measure is then printed for the use of Congress. When the House of Representatives considers the measure in Committee of the Whole, the amendments of the committee and the sporadic amendments issuing from the floor having been agreed to or rejected, as the case may be, the measure is passed. In the form in which it passes the House it is engrossed by the clerical force of the House and printed in engrossed form on blue ledger paper, in which form it is messaged over to the Senate.

The testimony accompanying this report will show that in cases of this kind the clerical force of the House, and the Government Printing Office as well, proceed with an anticipatory engrossment and preparation of the measure with a view to its ultimate expedition; hence when the final action of the House upon its bill is taken the engrossment and printing of the measure are already tremendously advanced. When the measure is messaged to the Senate it is again printed, carrying the action of being referred to the proper Senate committee.

In the Senate committee very much the same procedure is followed as has been followed in the House. A subcommittee of the Senate committee first considers the House measure, possibly requiring for its confidential uses several prints thereof. The subcommittee report to the full committee, who in turn finally make their report to the Senate, in which form the bill is again, officially, printed for the use of the Senate, with or without amendments, as reported by the Senate committee. This is the print showing certain matter lined out with italicized additions.

After being passed by the Senate with the committee and other amendments the changes are indicated in a separate print called the engrossed amendments of the Senate. In the accomplishment of this print the method of anticipation is again practiced with great effect, both by the clerical force of the Senate and the bill force of the Government Printing Office, to the end that the absolute minimal time may be attained in making the measure available for the use of Congress. When the measure gets back to the House, where it originated, with the engrossed amendments of the Senate, those amendments are numbered, and when the measure with the numbered amendments is referred to the House the bill is ordered printed with the numbered amendments of the Senate dovetailed into the bill.

The measure in this form is considered by conferees, who reach fractional agreement or agreement en masse, as the case may be. Frequently several conferences are ordered. At this point the enrolling clerk of the House makes up the copy for the enrolled bill, which is then printed on parchment, and after the same has been signed by the presiding officers of both Houses, and finally by the President of the United States, it is printed as a public law, which is the final disposition until it is embodied in the statutes.

Propos of the foregoing the enrolling clerk of the House of Representatives, in written testimony contained in the exhibits accompanying this report, makes the following statement:

When a bill passes both Houses it is not ready by any means to be sent to the President. The fact is that the actual work in perfecting it only begins, as it must be prepared by the enrolling clerk, and, with the amendments, if any, sent to the Printing Office (the distance between the Capitol and the Printing Office being great)

for proof; returned to the enrolling clerk, read, sent back to be returned on parchment for another reading by the enrolling clerk. If errors are found on one or more sheets, those sheets are returned for correction and reprinting. When the corrections are all made, the parchment, with the original papers—the engrossed copy, the amendments, and the conference reports—are all turned over to the Committee on Enrolled Bills, which committee repeat the work of the enrolling clerk and his assistants. If found correct, the bill is then taken to the Speaker of the House, etc.

At the risk of repetition, it may be stated that the enrolling clerk of the House, in making his enrollment, compiles his copy for the printer from, first, the desk copy; second, the blue print; third, the engrossed amendments of the Senate, and, finally, the conference reports, varying in number; so that he is practically making his enrollment from five or more different pieces of copy. In a bill having many pages and many amendments, the work of enrollment is complicated and magnitudinous in the extreme, and, considering the care necessary to be exercised in order that not only the language of the bill, but every punctuation mark and capital letter as well, may be absolutely accurate, much time must necessarily be consumed. In emphasis of this point, it may also be stated that, in the preparation and acceptance of each print of the bill, in addition to the preparation of copy, proof must be read, and the work of both the clerical forces of Congress and the bill force of the Government Printing Office has to be fully verified.

In the light of this procedure, let us consider the two measures leading to this investigation, namely, the general deficiency bill and the public buildings bill.

The criticism attaching to the general deficiency bill concerns a delay experienced by the conferees in securing what is known as the numbered amendment print for consideration, this being the print ordered by the House after the bill has been returned to the House by the Senate with the engrossed amendments of the latter dovetailed into the bill. Omitting the preliminary steps involved in the handling of the measure, testimony attached will show that the bill passed the Senate late Thursday night, June 28, 1906.

A preliminary copy, *containing the Senate committee amendments only*, was sent to the Printing Office at 9 o'clock p. m. of that day by the enrolling clerk of the Senate, who requested that proof be sent him on the following morning. Proof was delivered to him on the following morning (Friday) at 9.20 o'clock. Meanwhile the enrolling clerk of the Senate was engaged until after midnight in compiling his full copy of the engrossed amendments. Upon receipt of the aforesaid partial proof, the enrolling clerk of the Senate completed his comparison of the proof with the copy and returned corrected proof to the Printing Office *containing the Senate floor amendments* to the bill (about twenty in all), at 10 a. m. of the same morning (Friday). Proof of this latter copy was returned to the Senate by the Government Printing Office at 11.30 a. m. for proper verification and necessary correction.

In this shape the bill was messaged over to the House some time after noon. The official copy for the numbered amendments, which is the form in which the measure is printed for the use of the conferees, and which is prepared by the printing clerk of the House following the receipt by the House of the bill from the Senate with the engrossed amendments, was received at the Government Printing Office at 2.35

p. m., same day, and the completed bill delivered at the Capitol at 3.25 p. m., or within fifty minutes' time.

The Government Printing Office anticipated the action on this bill and, without waiting for the official copy, sent seven forms to press before the official copy reached the Printing Office. The other five forms were either on the press or on the way down to the press when copy was received, and fifty minutes after the receipt of copy by the Printing Office the print desired by the conferees was sent back to Congress. The bill contained 96 pages and 95 amendments. The enrolling clerk of the Senate, in his testimony, asserts that had the proper clerk of the House sent to the Printing Office earlier in the day the conferees might have received the desired print an hour earlier than they actually did receive it.

The testimony of the enrolling clerk of the Senate on this point is as follows:

Mr. HOWE. Now, the print of the bill that Senator Hale wanted to use in conference of course could not have been supplied to him before it was messaged to the House and enrolled by the House?

Mr. PLATT. Yes; it could have been, because the man who makes up the bills with the Senate amendments numbered could have gone to the Printing Office, which we have done time and time again, and have made out his amendments there, and then they probably would have received that bill at the House some little time earlier than they did receive it.

Mr. HOWE. And you think the conferees would have gotten that print more quickly if some attaché of the House had taken the trouble to go and get an advance copy?

Mr. PLATT. Yes. I telephoned to that gentleman, I think, in the morning, that I had the amendments ready and had sent them back to the Printing Office, and I presumed that he would go down there, because the night before he asked me if he went down there if it would do any good on that night. * * * I think there may have possibly been an hour lost there, but I would not say that for sure; but I think there was some little time lost there.

With regard to the public buildings bill, it should be stated at the outset that the procedure employed in the handling of supply bills was followed in the consideration of that measure. The bill passed the House on the Monday before adjournment, June 25, was messaged to the Senate Tuesday morning and referred to the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, which committee met on Wednesday, its regular meeting day, to take it up. The committee completed its consideration of the measure Wednesday night and reported the same to the Senate Thursday morning with approximately one hundred and sixty-seven amendments.

As the measure was not privileged, its consideration by the Senate during the day (Thursday) was considerably obstructed, and it was not finally passed until late Thursday night. It was messaged to the House Friday morning. The House promptly disagreed to the amendments of the Senate and asked for a conference, to which the Senate assented, and the conferees met at 3 o'clock, remaining in session until 10 o'clock that night (Friday), at which time they reached a partial agreement. The action of the Senate on this fractional conference report was prompt, but the House, owing to a parliamentary situation, did not act until 12 o'clock midnight.

From fourteen to twenty items remained in disagreement, as to which the House asked for a second conference, to which the Senate agreed, which conference was held at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. It was at this point that suggestions of delay were made. It is doubtless true, and the testimony will show, that if the conferees had met

after midnight, Friday, instead of at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, two hours might have been saved and the final adjournment of Congress advanced to that extent; but the testimony additionally shows that the conferees had been for the two preceding nights engaged in the discharge of Congressional duty until after midnight and were too greatly exhausted to confer on this bill on the night of Friday.

After the final agreement of the conferees on Saturday morning at 10.30 o'clock, the clerks of the conference committee were obliged to draft the conference report. This work consumed two hours and a half. It was exacting work, involving the maximum of accuracy. Testimony shows that the clerks of the conference committee were subjected to some interruption by Members of Congress during the progress of their compilation of the conference report, while the final check of the report with the committee's data, which was deemed necessary in the interest of absolute accuracy, made by the two committee clerks with Senator Warren and Representative Bartholdt, consumed from a half to three-quarters of an hour.

Some time after the completion of the work of the clerks of the conference committee the report was submitted to the House—approximately at 1.45 p. m. A well-defined rumor tended to show that delay in the submission of the final conference report to the House, between the moment of agreement by the conferees at 10.30 a. m. and the moment of the submission of the conference report to the House at approximately 1.45 p. m., was occasioned by a confusion in the minds of those officials of the House who define the parliamentary procedure of that body as to the right of the House to first submit this second conference report, the impression prevailing that the report should first be submitted to the Senate.

This confusion appeared to have resulted in each House waiting some time for the other House to act. The written testimony of General Parkinson, the reading clerk of the Senate, whose duties carried him to the House at this time, will show that upward of an hour was lost as a result of this confusion. On this point General Parkinson testifies as follows:

The House authorities labored under erroneous impression that the Senate conferees should submit their report first. At the suggestion of Mr. McDonald and Mr. Platt, made in the presence and with the acquiescence of, I think, Senator Hale or some other excellent authority on the matter of conference reports, I told the House people at least twice that the Senate was waiting for the House conferees to make their report first, which they finally did, but after a wait and delay of an hour or more.

After the submission in the House of the conference report, however, the same was promptly messaged to the Senate and, with equal promptness, agreed to by that body and then entered the hands of the enrolling clerk of the House, from which he proceeded to prepare the copy for the official parchment proof. It is shown in the testimony that this copy reached the Government Printing Office at 4 o'clock p. m., Saturday, June 30, and the printed copy (proof) delivered to the Capitol, signed for by W. J. Browning, at 5.35 p. m. It should be stated that the bill contained twenty pages and approximately one hundred and sixty-seven amendments.

The enrolling force of the House, it is assumed, proceeded to read this proof and found errors therein requiring correction. Testimony shows that there were nine pages requiring to be reprinted, on two of which were errors attributable to the Government Printing Office and

on seven of which were errors attributable to the enrolling office of the House. These pages were returned to the Printing Office singly for reprinting as fast as errors were discovered. The first page reached the Printing Office at 6.16 p. m.

The last one was returned to the Capitol at 7.37 p. m. It should not be assumed that these errors operated to delay the work of Congress, for the reason that the act of reprinting the corrected pages was performed with such celerity by the Government Printing Office that the last corrected page, numbered 15, had been returned by the Government Printing Office before the enrolling clerk of the House had completed the reading of the last five pages of the bill; hence when the enrolling clerk had finally completed his comparison of the bill all errors had been rectified and a corrected print was in his possession.

It will be interesting to note that in respect of one page returned to the Government Printing Office a second time for correction of an error discovered later, for which the Capitol was responsible, the Printing Office completed the work of reprinting in exactly eight minutes. This final correction was made in the neighborhood of 9 p. m., after which the bill had to be compared by the Committee on Enrolled Bills before being signed by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the President of the United States.

From the foregoing description of the handling of these two measures, necessarily lengthy and involved, the following facts and conditions prominently appear:

As to the work of the Government Printing Office, testimony shows that the bill force is composed of experienced men, its personnel being the same as it has been for years. Congressional work is invariably given the preference over all other work. The amount of work performed by the Office during the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress exceeded by approximately three times the amount of work performed at the preceding long session and exceeded approximately by 5 per cent the amount of work performed during all three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress. A table appearing on page 27 of the testimony gives the details of this work. The bill force of the Printing Office during the last session of Congress was smaller by 7 men than during the previous Congress.

The amount of time consumed by the Printing Office in the handling of the two measures around which criticism centered seems to have been not unreasonable, but rather positively expeditious. Allegations of witnesses as to delays on the part of the Printing Office have been investigated as carefully as practicable, and have been found to be too general to merit censure. In fact, they are in the main trivial and in some cases react upon those making them. The enrolling clerk of the House and the enrolling clerk of the Senate, whose duties bring them into close relationship with the work of the Printing Office, and who would be probably greater sufferers than any others through delinquencies on the part of the Printing Office, pronounce the work of the Government Printing Office during the closing days of the last session as being essentially good. Mr. McKenney, the enrolling clerk of the House, thus characterizes the work of the Government Printing Office and, incidentally, his own:

The public buildings bill reached me about 2.30 p. m., June 30, I think, but I paid no attention to time, and it may have been an hour before or an hour later. The

bill was given immediate attention, and it was sent to the Printing Office as soon as possible, was returned to me for comparison with the original papers without unnecessary delay. Corrections were made on some sheets which were sent to the Printing Office and corrected sheets returned to me. When I had completed reading the bill, every sheet sent to the Printing Office for correction had been returned; thus showing the efficiency and promptness of the bill and messenger forces of the Printing Office. The bill was then turned over to the Committee on Enrolled Bills for comparison. As every word, punctuation mark, and even capital letters are read aloud in comparison, much time is of necessity consumed, especially in reading the large sheets of parchment, each equal to two sheets of an engrossed bill. Then came the bill for engrossment and enrollment authorizing the expenditure of money for various public buildings, which went through the same process as every bill does in engrossment and enrollment. There was no unnecessary delay with either of these bills, the deficiency bill, or other bills, at any time during the session of the Fifty-ninth Congress to cause censure or even unfavorable comment so far as the Printing Office is concerned with my work. * * * Personally, I was nearly worn out. The forty-eight hours preceding adjournment I did not have one minute's sleep, did not have one mouthful to eat from one breakfast until another, and I think the Printing Office force suffered an equally strenuous time. They are heroes, every one of them.

Mr. Platt, the enrolling clerk of the Senate, thus characterizes the work of the Printing Office when asked to state whether, as a result of his experience in dealing with the Printing Office, he could allege reasonable alacrity on the part of the Office:

Yes, I have not any hesitation in saying that I think the Printing Office, on the whole, is very expeditious, and, as a general thing, very correct. There is occasionally a short delay sometimes, when we think there ought not to be, and there may be a little fault to find in the proof reading sometimes, but those things will happen in the best-regulated families. You can not help it. I have never lost anything on account of delay in the Printing Office since we commenced to enroll bills by printing; never. I have always found that the Printing Office has been, I think, equal to the emergency.

From the practice of anticipation by the Government Printing Office of the work of Congress much good has been shown to result. If the Printing Office were to wait for the receipt of copy from the Capitol before setting up bill matter the work of Congress would be greatly prolonged. An illustration of the utility of this practice is shown in the handling of the supplemental bill, H. R. 20511, making appropriations for certain public buildings authorized by the act approved June 30, 1906, etc., which act after being messaged to the Senate was passed at 6.17 p. m. on Saturday, June 30.

The Printing Office, realizing that the Senate would in all probability pass the measure in the same form in which it passed the House, proceeded to print the enrolled copy and sent the same to the Senate at 5.49 p. m., or an hour and eight minutes before the Senate had acted upon the measure. This, of course, could only be possible in respect of a measure which the Senate would in all probability pass without amendment.

Nothing has been developed in the course of this investigation which would justify a conclusion that the present administration of the Government Printing Office is not distinctly creditable.

As to the performances of the enrolling offices of Congress, it can be safely asserted, without fear of contradiction, that considering the magnitude and complexity of their work it was performed with all possible expedition consistent with exactness. The testimony would tend to show that the enrolling force of the House, upon which the bulk of the work of enrollment falls, is undermanned, and that a proper increase in that force would be promotive of greater celerity in the performance of work devolving upon that office.

Attention is respectfully called to the fact that in the transmission of copy, proof, and other printed matter between the Capitol and the Government Printing Office, and in some instances between the Government Printing Office and the Executive Departments, the messenger force of the Government Printing Office is largely availed of. This force consists of a maximum of six bicycle messengers—usually four. Congress should not be dependent upon this messenger force, reliable and efficient as it has been shown to be, but should have messengers attached to its enrolling offices, especially during the closing days of the sessions of Congress, when the congestion of public business is great. Moreover, the efficiency of the messenger force of the Government Printing Office should not be depleted by the calls of the Executive Departments.

I venture the opinion that the inauguration of a time-record system which would show the precise time of receipt and delivery of copy, proof, etc., both at the Capitol and the Government Printing Office, would, by the facility it might afford in fixing responsibility for delays, tend to maximum efficiency in work and preclude much irresponsible criticism. Congress should at least be as well equipped for the proper and precise conduct of its business as a commercial institution. It is safe to assume that no commercial institution would for one moment tolerate methods as irresponsible as those which now obtain in the handling of Congressional bill work.

It may be remarked, in conclusion, that during the closing days of the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress there was an unusual congestion of important legislation, which may have to a degree, though not unnecessarily, retarded the completion of the work of Congress.

Very respectfully,

A. H. HOWE.

INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES OF DELAY IN COMPLETING THE WORK
OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
UNITED STATES SENATE.
Washington, D. C., July 7, 1906.

Met pursuant to resolution dated June 30, 1906.

Present: Mr. A. H. Howe, representing the Committee on Printing; also Capt. H. T. Brian, chief clerk Government Printing Office; Charles E. Young, foreman of printing, Government Printing Office; T. Frank Morgan, in charge of bill work; D. V. Chisholm, reviser; Joseph Dierken, clerk in the office of the foreman of printing; Frank Cox, clerk in the office of the foreman of printing; W. J. McEvoy, compositor; Frank M. Thompson, compositor; J. J. Kelly, pressman; R. Waldo Sandmeyer, messenger; John E. Welsh, messenger; Charles W. Lippold, messenger; F. N. Perkinson, messenger; H. E. Charlton, messenger; J. W. Bond, messenger; William W. Horne, assistant enrolling clerk of the Senate; W. A. Smith, and others.

Mr. HOWE. Gentlemen, the Committee on Printing is directed by the Senate, in its resolution of June 30, 1906, to inquire into the reasons for the delay in the Government Printing Office in sending to the Senate, especially in the last days of the session, printed copies of bills and joint resolutions pending and awaiting action on the part of Congress.

There were delays or suggestions of delay during the closing days of Congress in getting certain bills enrolled, the particular sources of irritation being the public buildings bill and, as I understand it, the urgent deficiency bill, appropriating money to carry into effect the provisions of the former measure, coupled with a reference to a delay experienced by the conferees on the general deficiency bill in securing a certain print of the general deficiency bill upon which they were anxious to work.

This committee is desirous of ascertaining whether the alleged delays are attributable to the Printing Office or to other persons or bodies. The object of this inquiry is to ascertain where the blame, if any, attaches. In order to get fixed in mind the process that is followed in the passage of appropriation bills, I am going to call on Mr. Horne, the assistant enrolling clerk of the Senate, who is the only attaché of either the House or Senate enrolling forces who happens to be in the city. Mr. Horne, will you describe briefly the process that is followed from the time an appropriation bill is taken up by the subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations to the time it is finally enrolled?

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Howe, before doing that will you allow me to state that the Public Printer is unable to be present on account of an

accident that confines him to his room. I wish also to state that he is fully able and has at all times attended to business and has lost no interest in it. The week Congress adjourned, against the protest of his physician, he was present each day, and the day Congress did adjourn he was present until half past 7 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. HOWE. I might also add that I have the assurance of the Public Printer that he will probably be able to be present early in the week at a further hearing, at which time we will have the benefit of his suggestions regarding this matter.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM W. HORNE, ASSISTANT ENROLLING CLERK OF THE SENATE.

Mr. HOWE. Now, Mr. Horne, will you proceed?

Mr. HORNE. As I understand it, on the House side an appropriation bill is formulated in the subcommittee. Then the subcommittee makes a report to the general appropriations committee. The work of the subcommittee is there ratified, you might say, and then the whole committee reports to the House. It then goes upon the Calendar—the House Calendar—to be called up either immediately or at any time that might be designated or fixed. It is called up, and, of course, is amended. The committee amendments are agreed to or rejected, as the case might be, and then other amendments are proposed upon the floor of the House and are agreed to or rejected. After the bill passes the House it goes in to the enrolling clerk of the House, who engrosses it.

I do not know minutely how the enrolling clerk of the House proceeds in cases of this kind, but I suppose it is upon the same line we do here on the Senate side. I judge, however, that he takes the two copies of the document room bill, or the committee report—the reported bill—and cuts it up; that is, so that the leaves will turn over, so that when it gets to the Printing Office the printers can cut the leaves apart into little strips and distribute it around to various typesetters. Whenever an amendment is put in he has to interline it, and the whole margin of his bill, it is not improbable, will be lined or covered with little squibs or items that have been inserted, and a pen will have been run through a number of lines where parts of the bill have been disagreed to in the Committee of the Whole of the House. That bill goes down to the Printing Office and is printed in that shape, and is known as the blueprint. Then it comes back. The enrolling clerk of the House is then supposed to compare that with his desk copy of the bill that comes out to him from the desk. He undoubtedly compares it and sees that it is accurate, and then it is attested by the Clerk of the House and messaged over to the Senate. It is then referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Appropriations will take it up and consider it, and make its report to the Senate. It then goes upon the Calendar of the Senate.

Mr. HOWE. Let me interrupt you for a moment. The Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, it is presumed, cuts out some matter that appears in the bill as it comes from the House and adds other matter.

Mr. HORNE. Oh, yes. They amend it, in other words.

Mr. HOWE. In other words, they amend it. That matter is lined out—that is, there is a line in the Senate print?

Mr. HORNE. Yes; the part that is stricken out has a line through it, and any new matter that is put in is in italics. Invariably, you might say, appropriation bills are amended, probably ranging from 100 to 250 amendments.

It is reported to the Senate in that way, and goes upon the Calendar upon any day, and is put upon its passage at some future day. As a rule, the committee amendments are taken up and agreed to first, and after they are all disposed of then the amendments are offered upon the floor. When the bill finally passes the Senate with amendments it comes out to the desk of the enrolling clerk of the Senate, and these amendments are engrossed, not in line with the bill as it is reported from the committee, but the amendments that appear in the bill as it is reported from the committee are put in their proper places with respect to the blueprint copy. For instance, the lines and pages of the committee's reported bill would not tally with the blueprint copy of the House bill. So the enrolling clerk has to figure out just where the amendments are to go in the blueprint.

Mr. HOWE. Let me interrupt you again. I would like to have you make clear what you mean by the blueprint.

Mr. HORNE. The blueprint is what we call the official copy, or the copy of the official copy. The official copy is attested by the Clerk of the House, and the blueprint is a duplicate of that.

Mr. HOWE. It is a bill printed on blue paper, in other words?

Mr. HORNE. Yes; there is one right there in that gentleman's hands.

Mr. YOUNG. I have one here, Mr. Howe, if you wish to see it.

Mr. HOWE. No; I do not care to see it now.

Mr. HORNE. The enrolling clerk now enrolls these amendments. The official form of it is: "In the Senate of the United States," (blank date)—supplying the date, of course—"Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives, H. R. (blank number), entitled 'An Act making appropriations, etc.' be passed with the following amendments." Then these amendments are all numbered. There might be anywhere from 100 to 250 of them in a big appropriation bill. They are all numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, consecutively, and each amendment has a number. We send these amendments down to the Printing Office and get back a proof. We compare the proof and correct it and make such changes as may be necessary or supply any omissions that may be necessary and send the proofs back to be engrossed. Then it is engrossed upon smooth white paper. I do not know what the name of the paper is. Probably you might tell me the name of it?

Mr. YOUNG. It is white writing paper.

Mr. HORNE. It is white writing paper; yes.

Mr. HOWE. It is the same as the blueprint, is it not, except that it is white?

Mr. HORNE. Yes; it corresponds to it.

Mr. HOWE. Is it not identical with the blueprint?

Mr. HORNE. It has the same relative standing in the two Houses. Ours is a white copy and theirs is blue. When that proof comes back to us, and we compare it and make the proper changes and corrections, we send it down to be put upon white paper in its engrossed form. That is attested by the Secretary and accompanies the original official blueprint copy of the House that was messaged over in the first instance. Upon the back of the original bill is stamped "*Resolved*, That this bill pass with amendments. Attest, Secretary."

That is messaged over to the House and then, as far as my information goes, those amendments are taken by the file clerk of the House—the file and bill clerk of the House—and prepared for another print; that is known as the House bill printed with Senate amendments numbered. That goes down to the Public Printer to be printed for the use of the committee and for the conferees, showing exactly where each amendment comes in the bill and giving the number of each amendment. When that is done the bill goes into conference, as a rule, and the conferees have this printed bill with Senate amendments numbered before them, probably for the convenience of the conferees in disagreeing or in accepting the various amendments. When it comes out of conference it is reported to the Senate and reported to the two Houses. The conference report is agreed to—I take it it is not necessary for me to go through the preliminary of inviting conference and rejecting it, etc.?

Mr. HOWE. No.

Mr. HORNE. When it gets out of conference agreed to then the bill goes in to the enrolling clerk of the House. I might say here that in the closing hours of Congress, especially with these large bills, it is my understanding that the enrolling clerk of the House anticipates the passage of the bills with the amendments, and usually prepares his bill with all his amendments in it, and sends it down to the Printing Office and has the proof sent back to him, so that when the conference report comes in to him and he compares the bill with the conference report, such matter as was agreed to he will leave in, and such matter as was disagreed to or rejected he will strike out. Then he can send his proof down to the Printing Office, and they have the type all standing, and they just take out such matter as was disagreed to in the conference and put in such new matter as might have been added.

Mr. HOWE. That is in the interest of expedition at the Printing Office?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, yes, undoubtedly so; and it is very well, too. The enrolling clerk and the Printing Office both would undoubtedly be left in the lurch if this was not done. That covers about the whole—

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Howe, may I ask Mr. Horne if he will not add just after he says that the blueprint is presented to the Senate that there is then a print of the bill for the Senate in addition to that?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, yes; that is a document-room copy. It is a common-paper print.

Captain BRIAN. That statement is necessary to make the history of the printing complete.

Mr. HORNE. Yes; that is very true.

Captain BRIAN. And I would like to ask if you will not state that the blueprint, when it comes to the Senate, is the official copy of the bill?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, yes; it is. There is only one official copy—that is, the one we sign.

Captain BRIAN. That is the only one that goes to the Senate?

Mr. HORNE. The other is a copy of the official copy.

Captain BRIAN. The other copies are for the use of the clerk. The blueprint that comes to the Senate is the official copy.

Mr. HORNE. Yes; undoubtedly.

Captain BRIAN. And, further, that the white copy containing the engrossed Senate amendments is the official copy—

Mr. HORNE. For the House; yes.

Captain BRIAN. The official copy that the Senate sends to the House?

Mr. HORNE. The official copy that the Senate sends to the House; yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. This procedure, then, was, of course, followed in the treatment or handling of these two measures—

Mr. HORNE. Undoubtedly.

Mr. HOWE. Which invited criticism?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Speaking for the enrolling office of the Senate, was there any delay in the handling of those two measures?

Mr. HORNE. None that I heard any complaint of.

Mr. HOWE. Can you recall when the two measures reached your desk?

Mr. HORNE. Well, about. The public buildings bill passed the Senate on the night of Thursday, June 28—my recollection is about 8 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Having already passed the House?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, certainly.

Captain BRIAN. Do you mean the public buildings bill, H. R. 20410?

Mr. HORNE. I do not mean the supplemental bill. Is that the supplemental bill?

Captain BRIAN. No, I think not.

Mr. HOWE. That is the public buildings bill?

Mr. HORNE. Yes; H. R. 20410. That came out to our desk from the desk in the Senate about 8 o'clock on Thursday night, June 28.

Mr. HOWE. With many amendments?

Mr. HORNE. Yes. I have forgotten how many, but, roughly speaking, there were probably 200 some odd. We had these amendments anticipated—that is, the committee amendments that came in from the reported bill in italics. We had anticipated these amendments being agreed to just as I have explained that probably the enrolling clerk of the House anticipates the passage of the bill with amendments. As to the other amendments that were added, or amendments that were disagreed to upon the floor, we took our proof copy and made the necessary corrections in it, and returned it to the Public Printing Office for its engrossment. We sent it down to be engrossed on the night of its passage, June 28, and it came back to us in engrossed form the following morning, Saturday, and the bill with the accompanying amendments was messaged over to the House between 11 and 12 o'clock on Saturday.

Mr. HOWE. You say the bill reached your desk when?

Mr. HORNE. About 8 o'clock on the evening of the 28th, Thursday.

Mr. HOWE. And it came back to you in engrossed form—

Mr. HORNE. No, no. I have got the date wrong. It came back next morning in engrossed form.

Mr. HOWE. Was that an unusual length of time?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, no.

Captain BRIAN. Was that Friday morning or Saturday?

Mr. HORNE. Where I said Saturday there make it Friday. I wrote it wrong in my memorandum. It was the next day, and of course the general deficiency bill was passed the same night that the public buildings bill passed; about 10 o'clock, I should judge.

Mr. HOWE. That is not the deficiency bill that appropriated money to carry out the provisions of the public buildings bill?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, no.

Captain BRIAN. That is H. R. 20403.

Mr. HORNE. It passed the same night. Our amendments were engrossed and the bill was messaged over to the House the next day between 1 and 2 o'clock. Neither was that an extravagant waste of time.

Mr. HOWE. Let me ask you as to these anticipations you speak of. That is where you anticipate amendments?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. How do you arrive at these anticipations? Do you secure information in advance from the committee?

Mr. HORNE. Well, only to this extent: When the committee reports an appropriation bill to the Senate it is reported with amendments, and these amendments are all put in italics. That indicates to us that they are amendments and we anticipate the Senate agreeing to these committee amendments in italics. This matter that is printed in italics in the bill of course is not in the bill as it comes from the House. The Senate puts that in in committee and it has been our experience that the Senate very readily agreed to the majority of the Senate amendments as the Senate reports it.

Mr. HOWE. In other words, it is more expeditious for the Printing Office to cut out the rejected matter than it would be to reset the bill?

Mr. HORNE. Than it would be to reset the whole thing.

Mr. HOWE. Then there were no delays so far as your office was concerned in the matter of enrolling these two measures?

Mr. HORNE. I think not, sir; at least, I have heard no complaint.

Mr. HOWE. You know of no criticism that has been directed against your office?

Mr. HORNE. None whatever.

Mr. HOWE. Generally speaking, what has been your experience in the matter of getting back from the Printing Office printed matter sent from your desk?

Mr. HORNE. Well, that varies. There has been complaint in getting the work back from the Printing Office. Some days there was absolutely no ground for complaint.

Mr. HOWE. Do these complaints appertain to the more important bills, such as the ones under consideration, or has your experience been that the Printing Office——

Mr. HORNE. These important bills, and especially these under consideration, appropriation bills, are House bills, and we have no cognizance of them when they come up in the engrossed or enrolled form. That is left entirely with the House enrolling clerks, and I can not speak about the delays so far as the House is concerned. We have suffered some delays in Senate bills by reason of the fact that we have discovered errors in the proof reading, and would have to send a sheet back to be corrected. That would necessitate some delay.

Mr. HOWE. Is that of frequent occurrence?

Mr. HORNE. I will not say it is a frequent occurrence. I will say it has appeared to us to have been more frequent than in the past few years.

Mr. HOWE. More frequent during the recent session than in previous sessions?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. Would it interrupt if I asked Mr. Horne to make it clear whether these errors are in the proof that is submitted or in the printed copies?

Mr. HORNE. That is, whether the error was on the part of the Printing Office or on the part of the enrolling clerk?

Captain BRIAN. Well, the errors you speak of, please.

Mr. HORNE. That is the kind of error I was speaking of.

Mr. HOWE. Were they errors in the printed copies, in the final print, or in the proof?

Mr. HORNE. Captain Brian means was it the copy that was prepared by the office here and sent down—

Captain BRIAN. No, excuse me. I mean whether it was the proof that was submitted by the Printing Office, or the printed copies furnished by the Printing Office.

Mr. HORNE. Sometimes we ask for proof, Captain, and other times we do not. Sometimes we mark on the copy "Send proof;" and sometimes we have discovered the error in the proof, and at other times we have discovered the error in the official copies.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask further, when you discovered the error in the printed copy was that when you did not have proof?

Mr. HORNE. Well, we have discovered errors when we did not have proof, and we have discovered errors when we did have proof.

Captain BRIAN. In the printed copies?

Mr. HORNE. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. One thing more. Do not the regulations require you to have proof, and to read the proof before the final print, to ascertain if there are errors?

Mr. HORNE. I do not think so. If that is a rule of the Senate it has never been called to my attention.

Captain BRIAN. May I submit the rules later, Mr. Howe?

Mr. HOWE. Certainly. Mr. Horne, in cases where you discover errors, where you have received proof, would it not follow that the error possibly attached to your office in sending back uncorrected proof rather than that the Printing Office erred in printing from the proof that you sent over?

Mr. HORNE. I do not exactly catch your question.

Mr. HOWE. Well, for instance, you send copy to the Printing Office and ask for proof.

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. They send the proof back to you and you presumably read it.

Mr. HORNE. We do read it.

Mr. HOWE. And if you find corrections necessary you note the corrections on it.

Mr. HORNE. Yes, on the margin.

Mr. HOWE. And send it back?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Do you find that the Printing Office disregards your corrections?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, by no means; oh, no. If we correct the proof they will send back a corrected copy.

Mr. HOWE. Then what—

Mr. HORNE. The cause for the proof coming up with the error in it, I suppose, is due to faulty proof reading in the Public Printing Office.

Mr. HOWE. Of course the very object of asking for proof is to insure accuracy.

Mr. HORNE. Yes; but, for instance, the Senate may pass two or three hundred pension bills. We do not ask for proof on those bills. We have them put upon parchment in the first instance.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask a question?

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. Then do you not use that parchment copy as proof? You read it to see if it is correct?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, yes; we read it to see if it is correct. If it is not correct we destroy it and call for another.

Captain BRIAN. You use the parchment copy as the proof that you ought to have had in the first place?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. In those cases where you use the parchment copy as proof, do you find errors frequently or infrequently?

Mr. HORNE. Not in pension bills. The errors are very infrequent. The pension bills are usually very accurate.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask if you frequently find errors in any bill, pension or any other kind?

Mr. HORNE. I would not say frequently, no. My first statement was that the errors seem to have been more prevalent this year than in past years, since I have had any connection with the office.

Mr. HOWE. Noticeably so?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. And those errors were the fault of the Printing Office and not the fault of the copy, Mr. Horne?

Mr. HORNE. Yes, sir. When the copy would not be returned with the parchment copy, as has often been the case, we have called on the Public Printing Office to return the copy in order that we might see whether or not it was our mistake or a Printing Office mistake, and I do not recall a single instance where we found the mistake was made in sending the copy down.

Mr. HOWE. Can you now or later cite some concrete instances where these errors have occurred, in order that they may be traced?

Mr. HORNE. I can not do it for this reason: We send down such a bulk of copy during the entire session that there is nothing for us to do when we compare it and satisfy ourselves that it is finally correct but to destroy the copy. There is no occasion for keeping it, and we do not keep it. Otherwise I could, of course.

Mr. HOWE. In cases of that kind, is it your practice to call the attention of the officials of the Printing Office to these errors in order that they may be corrected?

Mr. HORNE. Only to the extent of returning it with a marginal note that there exists an error, and the proof reader can see for himself without calling it specifically to his attention.

Mr. HOWE. Would you say that the errors appertain to the proof-reading force of the office rather than to the force of compositors?

Mr. HORNE. I think that is undoubtedly true. Where copy is sent up to us with an error in it, it having been supposed to have been

read before it came to us by a proof reader in the Public Printing Office, I should say unquestionably the blame was on the proof reader.

Captain BRIAN. Do you know of a case where a bill had been read, where the parchment copy has been used for proof, and where you found errors after that?

Mr. HORNE. You mean, Captain, after we had discovered one error and sent it down, and had it returned to us?

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. HORNE. No.

Captain BRIAN. I mean, using the parchment copy as proof in the first place.

Mr. HORNE. And discovering an error in it and then sending it back to be corrected?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; whether you found an error after that, in any case?

Mr. HORNE. Not on the second print of the copy.

Captain BRIAN. All the errors you found were in the proof?

Mr. HORNE. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. And none in the printed bills. We call that first print on parchment a proof.

Mr. HORNE. When we send down a bill and ask that it be put on parchment we do not regard that as a proof.

Mr. HOWE. But you say you do look over the parchment copy afterwards?

Mr. HORNE. Every one of them.

Mr. HOWE. You go over it as you would a proof, and if you find an error you return it for correction?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. That becomes a proof copy.

Mr. HOWE. Would it not follow, if your office called for proof in every instance, and read it and corrected it if necessary, that you would receive back from the Printing Office finally absolutely or practically correct prints?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, yes, yes. When we want a proof of a bill we note on it "Send proof." The public Printing Office does not send back this parchment copy to us.

Mr. HOWE. I understand—

Mr. HORNE. We should not regard a parchment copy as being a proof copy. If we wanted to we would write the word "parchment" across it when we do not want a proof. We do that for the sake of expediting the bills. A Senator might want a bill gotten to the White House that day, and we would hardly have time to ask for a proof first and then send it down and have it put on parchment for the second printing.

Mr. HOWE. In this little complaint you make about the Printing Office, I would like to have you say whether the cases are so frequent as to be flagrant or—

Mr. HORNE. No, I would not regard it so.

Mr. HOWE. Or whether, generally speaking, the service is good?

Mr. HORNE. Generally speaking, it is good.

Mr. HOWE. It is unfortunate that some of the enrolling force of the House are not here.

Captain BRIAN. I should like very much to have Mr. McKenney, Mr. Howe.

Mr. HORNE. As a matter of fact, none of the trouble seems to exist on this side of the building.

Captain BRIAN. I was going to ask if Mr. Horne would not say that all of the large appropriation bills are House bills; and that all of the enrolling is done by the House.

Mr. HORNE. Yes; all House bills are engrossed in the House, of course, and the appropriation bills are House measures.

Captain BRIAN. I will ask Mr. Horne if he will not explain how the enrolled copy is gotten up? What does the clerk have before him to make that enrolled copy up for the printer?

Mr. HORNE. A House or a Senate bill?

Captain BRIAN. A House bill.

Mr. HORNE. I never enrolled a House bill, but I presume——

Captain BRIAN. He has first of all the desk copy?

Mr. HORNE. The desk copy to make his copy from.

Captain BRIAN. And the blueprint?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. Which is the official copy?

Mr. HORNE. No; he would not have the blueprint. You only have the blueprint after the bill passes.

Captain BRIAN. The enrolled copy is after the bill passes.

Mr. HORNE. I thought you meant the engrossed copy.

Captain BRIAN. He first has the desk copy, and then he has the blueprint?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. And the engrossed amendments of the Senate?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. And the conference report or two or three conference reports, if there have been so many?

Mr. HORNE. Yes. As I stated, however, at the outset, I do not know exactly how the enrolling clerk of the House would prepare that bill. But rather than in the way you suggest I would presume that he had the House bill print with the Senate amendments numbered—that copy.

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. HORNE. So that would obviate the necessity of his having to paste in these various Senate amendments and he could just strike out, probably.

Captain BRIAN. That is what he uses for preparing the copy?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. He also has the conference report?

Mr. HORNE. He has the conference report. I do not think he would use the blueprint as you suggested.

Captain BRIAN. Would he not have to use the blueprint, because the conference report refers to lines and sections, and pages in the blueprint?

Mr. HORNE. Yes; yes, he would.

Captain BRIAN. He would have to use that to pick it out of?

Mr. HORNE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. So that he is practically making up his report from five different pieces of copy?

Mr. HORNE. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. You said a while ago that you had heard some com-

plaints about enrolled bills, as to the time it has taken the Printing Office. Was that principally as to House bills?

Mr. HORNE. If you speak of the appropriation bills, of course they were; but I never heard any complaint about the general routine business down there, except upon Senate bills, if we heard any at all.

Captain BRIAN. You said there was some complaint about enrolled bills coming from the Printing Office on the last day. What I want to ask is whether you have any means of knowing how long that copy had been at the Printing Office, or whether it had reached there or not when they were calling for it?

Mr. HORNE. I never said anything about complaints of bills in the last few days, I don't think.

Captain BRIAN. That is what I understood, that you said there had been some complaint.

Mr. HOWE. I did not understand it that way, Captain Brian.

Captain BRIAN. Then I withdraw that.

Mr. HORNE. You are under a misapprehension entirely.

Mr. HOWE. I should like to ask a question of Mr. Victor L. Ricketts, clerk of the House Committee on Printing, who has had experience in printing.

**STATEMENT OF VICTOR L. RICKETTS, CLERK OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.**

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Ricketts, what is the practice in private printing establishments in the matter of furnishing proof? Do they furnish proof on request, or do they invariably furnish proof whether it is requested or not?

Mr. RICKETTS. I would say that every private printer in handling matters of any importance whatever, if he were a prudent man, would insist upon submitting proof to his customer. He would insist on the customer returning to his office what he would call an O. K.'d or approved proof, which the printer would retain in his office for a reasonable length of time at least for his own protection against any charges of inaccuracy or negligence that might be made against him or his office in the future from his customer. So I would say that the private printer feels that where he has submitted proof and that proof has been returned to him and errors are subsequently discovered in the work the responsibility for such errors would be determined by those finally approved proofs.

Mr. HOWE. I see. Mr. Horne, would you regard it as practical to receive proof from the Printing Office on all bills that you send over, or on all copy that you send over?

Mr. HORNE. No, sir; I would not, for this reason—when you say "all," that means all.

Mr. HOWE. That means all.

Mr. HORNE. It is often the case that a Senator will be very much interested in a bill, and he will come in and will want it to go to the President that night for signature. Of course, we want to obviate any delay, and that would necessarily result by sending the bill back twice to be printed. So we do not require that a proof be sent here in instances of that kind, but just the parchment copy.

Mr. HOWE. Then the errors to which you alluded are not so frequent or momentous as to justify your receiving a proof in all cases?

Mr. HORNE. Oh, no; I think not.

Mr. HOWE. The loss of time would be more serious than the few errors that you have found?

Mr. HORNE. I think so.

Mr. HOWE. Well, I think that is all, Mr. Horne. Do you wish to ask Mr. Horne any questions, Captain Brian?

Captain BRIAN. Nothing more, sir.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. H. T. BRIAN, CHIEF CLERK GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

Mr. HOWE. Captain Brian, I would like to trace, so far as I can, the handling of these two measures by your Office. Are your records in such shape that you can account for the time that was consumed in the handling of those measures by your Office—that is, the time the copy reached you and when it left you?

Captain BRIAN. We can tell about the last day with reference to this enrolled bill and the engrossed copies.

Mr. HOWE. There has not been any complaint particularly about delays anterior to that last day?

Captain BRIAN. You mean as to enrolled bills. Yes, sir; we can tell that.

Mr. HOWE. What is your system over there? Do you keep a time record of the receipt of copy?

Captain BRIAN. That is the intention. It is not always carried out.

Mr. HOWE. Was it carried out in this instance?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; we know the minute this copy reached the office and the minute it left us.

Mr. HOWE. We would like to hear from you about that?

Captain BRIAN. Our record shows that the copy for this enrolled bill was received at the Printing Office at 4 o'clock on the 30th of June.

Mr. HOWE. To which bill do you allude?

Captain BRIAN. The public buildings bill, H. R. 20410.

Mr. HOWE. How about the other bill? Well, let us stick to our text and follow this bill through.

Captain BRIAN. The copy for bill H. R. 20410 was received at the Government Printing Office at 4 o'clock on Saturday, June 30, and the printed copy of the enrolled bill was delivered at the Capitol at 5.35.

Mr. HOWE. How voluminous was this bill?

Captain BRIAN. Twenty pages.

Mr. HOWE. Did it have many amendments?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; there were something like 165 amendments.

Mr. HOWE. The Congressional Record of Saturday, June 30, 1906, shows that the Senate convened at 10 o'clock a. m.

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. And that there were something like nine recesses taken awaiting the receipt of this final print?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir. Mr. Howe, you will find in the proceedings, shortly after the assembling at 10 o'clock—

Mr. HOWE. In the case of this bill, did you follow the practice that has been suggested, of anticipating the adoption of amendments?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir; everything had been anticipated.

Mr. HOWE. So that when you received the final copy it was a mere matter—

Captain BRIAN. Of putting the amendments in and reading the proof, I commenced to say, Mr. Howe, that shortly after the Senate assembled on Saturday, June 30, Senator Scott asked the Senate to have patience, and said that he wished to state that as soon as the report could be written up by the clerks "the conferees on the public buildings bill have agreed on a report, which will be presented."

Mr. HOWE. That was about what time?

Captain BRIAN. That was shortly after the Senate assembled, at 10 o'clock in the morning. I simply want to show that the Senate was impatient for the printed copy that early in the day, before the conference report had even been written.

Mr. HOWE. Is there anything that shows when that conference report was finally submitted?

Captain BRIAN. I do not know that there is, but you will find that at 12.38 o'clock Senator Warren said: "Mr. President, on the other side the public buildings bill is yet under consideration, the conference report not having been made." That was at 12.38 o'clock. At 1.10 o'clock Mr. Scott announced that he was expecting every minute the public buildings bill from the House, and he said: "I believe that is what is delaying the House." About 1.30 o'clock it appears that the conference report was submitted in the Senate—

Mr. HOWE. About 1.30?

Captain BRIAN. After 1.30. It was after reassembling, after the recess, at 1.30. The committee on conference submitted their report to the Senate. It was agreed to in the Senate just before the recess at 1.55.

Mr. HOWE. And then the Senate took a recess until 5 o'clock.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Hale made the announcement at 1.55 that "information has come from the House of Representatives that the bills in the course of enrollment can not be completed before half past 5 or 6 o'clock."

Mr. HOWE. And it was then, presumably, in the enrolling office of the House?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. The conference report having been adopted in the House?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir. At 2 o'clock, Mr. Howe, we received this note from the enrolling clerk of the House: "Will have copy for public buildings bill soon. The conferees have agreed."

Mr. HOWE. That was at 2 o'clock?

Captain BRIAN. At 2 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. When did you say you received the copy?

Captain BRIAN. At 4 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. And you returned the bill at 5.10, was it?

Captain BRIAN. 5.35, sir.

Mr. HOWE. That is to say, the bill reached the Capitol at 5.35?

Captain BRIAN. It left our Office at 5.35.

Mr. HOWE. And it rested in your place from 4 o'clock—

Captain BRIAN. From 4 o'clock until 5.35.

Mr. HOWE. That is an hour and thirty-five minutes.

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. This copy goes down from the Capitol in what way?

Captain BRIAN. It is sent by our messenger.

Mr. HOWE. Is it sent by a Capitol messenger or a Printing Office messenger?

Captain BRIAN. A Printing Office messenger. As a general thing everybody uses our messengers. They find them better than other people's.

Mr. HOWE. They do not stop on the way and play ball?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir. We put our messengers up against the world, and they make a record of coming from the Capitol to the Printing Office in five or six minutes.

Mr. HOWE. They use bicycles?

Captain BRIAN. They use bicycles, and they take a pride in their work. Each one tries to see how much quicker he can come than the other fellow.

Mr. HOWE. Is your messenger here who carried this copy that reached your hands at 4 o'clock?

Captain BRIAN. Our messenger is here, Mr. Howe; but the copy comes down from the Capitol sealed up, and the messenger, nine times out of ten, does not know what he is bringing. All he knows is that he is bringing a hurried job.

Mr. HOWE. Was there frequent transmission of copy between the Printing Office and the Capitol on that day?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir; they were running all the time.

Mr. HOWE. Then this messenger could not identify that particular job?

Captain BRIAN. I do not think he could.

Mr. HOWE. Unfortunately we have not any testimony from the House enrolling force showing when they delivered the copy to your messenger.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Howe, is there not some way to get a statement from Mr. McKenney? We would be delighted to have such a statement, and we do not think this investigation can be complete unless we do get a statement from Mr. McKenney.

Mr. HOWE. Have you had any conversations, or has anyone in your office, had any conversations with Mr. McKenney, the enrolling clerk of the House, on this subject?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir; I had a conversation with Mr. McKenney.

Mr. HOWE. What was the trend of his remarks?

Captain BRIAN. I had a conversation with Mr. McKenney, and I asked Mr. McKenney to go to the Public Printing Office and repeat in the presence of the Public Printer and Mr. Young and Mr. Morgan what he had said to me. May I say now what Mr. McKenney said?

Mr. HOWE. I should be pleased to hear what he said.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. McKenney said that the Printing Office had been prompt as usual; that in the ten years that he had been enrolling clerk he had never had any fault to find or complaint to make of the Printing Office, and that the service this year was better than ever.

Mr. HOWE. Did he say anything—

Captain BRIAN. Let me say one or two more words. He spoke of the people who were handling the copy. He said he was under obligations to them, that they did their work intelligently and well; and he also said that he wanted to include the messengers—that they were the best set of messengers he ever came in contact with. That is, in substance, what Mr. McKenney said, only he said it in a good deal stronger language than I have given it to you.

Mr. HOWE. This conversation followed the criticism that was made in the Senate?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; this conversation was held last Sunday morning about 11 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Did he make any specific allusions to the criticism regarding these two measures?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; he said there was no call for it, in his opinion.

Mr. HOWE. That is, as it related to the Printing Office?

Captain BRIAN. As it related to the Printing Office; yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Did he speak of any delay that occurred in the enrolling room of the House?

Captain BRIAN. No. He said he did everything possible for a man to do. He worked—I do not know how many hours—36 or 48 hours without resting. I forget the number of hours that he said he himself had worked without rest or sleep. Mr. McKenney also made the statement that he had made it plain that the condition of the work was such that Congress could not adjourn until 10 o'clock that night.

Mr. HOWE. To whom did he make it plain?

Captain BRIAN. I think to the officers of the House, perhaps the Clerk of the House—some one who was inquiring about the condition of his work.

Mr. HOWE. The inference is that the major part of this delay, then, occurred in the House enrolling office.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. McKenney said there was no delay, Mr. Howe.

Mr. HOWE. I mean—perhaps I should not have used the term delay—

Captain BRIAN. That there was no delay either in his office or in the Printing Office; that everything was done just as promptly as it could be done. But it takes time, and you can not make up the copy for a bill in a few minutes. There was a bill that made forty-seven pages that he had to make up from five different pieces of copy, and it takes time to do it.

Mr. HOWE. Does he write that copy by hand or type write it, or does he cut and paste?

Captain BRIAN. No; he takes one of these printed copies and puts the amendments in and cuts out what is not to remain in it; but he has to compare this after he gets through with the official copy—with the Senate amendments and with the conference report. In this case I think there were two conference reports, at least two, and I do not know how many more.

Mr. HORNE. Yes; two.

Captain BRIAN. Yes; I know there were two conference reports.

Mr. HOWE. Instead of referring, then, to delay in the House enrolling room, perhaps I should say it appears the bulk of the time was consumed in the House enrolling room?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; that is right. That is, between 2 o'clock, when he said he expected that copy, and 4 o'clock. That was consumed in the House enrolling room.

Mr. HOWE. Now, this hour and thirty five minutes that you had the bill—is that an unusual length of time to be consumed in the returning of printed matter from the Printing Office?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir; it could not be done any quicker than that; everybody was on the lookout and giving strict attention to the Congressional work.

Mr. HOWE. I would like to ask you about the personnel of the bill force of your office. The general impression has been, during the past eight or nine years that I have been connected with the Capitol, that you had a very efficient bill force in the Printing Office, and the impression has gotten about in some way or another that that force has been reorganized and the personnel considerably changed. Is that true?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir. I want to make that very emphatic, that that force has not been changed. That force is the same, except for deaths and resignations, that it has been for the last eight or nine years. Mr. Young, here, the foreman of printing, has had charge of the bill force for certainly thirteen or fourteen years.

Mr. YOUNG. Since 1891.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Morgan has had immediate charge, that is, doing the work with his two hands and seeing that others do the work, for the last four or five years. Before that he was what you might call an understudy of a very efficient man who died. We could not keep him any longer. And it is the same with the proof readers. Mr. Kelly, there, is the same pressman that has been at work on these parchment bills ever since we have been printing on parchment, and if anybody can do it any better than he can they are welcome to his job. I have seen him—well, I will not tell you about it. He has run the presses better and faster than I ever saw anybody else do it; and I want to say the same for the whole force. There have been no changes in the Printing Office under Mr. Stillings's administration, except those that occur from death, resignation, and a few from unavoidable causes.

Mr. HOWE. Then there are not many new men on the bill force?

Captain BRIAN. There are not many new men on the bill force. I will say this, Mr. Howe, and I want to make this plain, there is not anyone on the bill force, who has charge of anything, who is new.

Mr. HOWE. You have not noticed any disposition on the part of that force to shirk their work this year, as compared with previous years?

Captain BRIAN. No. On the contrary, they are both quick and efficient. I think I know something about bill printing. I have been connected with the Printing Office perhaps longer than any of you can remember. I had charge of the bills thirty years ago myself, and I have been in touch with it ever since as foreman of printing and chief clerk, and I know just exactly what time it takes to print a bill, and I know when you may expect it and when to be on the lookout. Mr. Young and Mr. Morgan are just as efficient men as you could find in the country.

Mr. HOWE. How many men are there now on the bill force, Captain Brian?

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Young has the list there. The bill force depends, Mr. Howe, on the amount of copy. We have a large and efficient bill force that works on bills when bill copy is in. When bill copy is not there they have something else.

Mr. YOUNG. There are 192 people.

Captain BRIAN. There are 192 people.

Mr. HOWE. The presumption is that during the closing days of Congress there is more bill copy than at any other time, and I presume the force would reach its maximum at that time.

Captain BRIAN. There are 192 people.

Mr. YOUNG. That is, not including proof readers and copy holders, in fact all the proof room, nor the press room downstairs. That is merely the bill force proper, taking in the composing room.

Mr. HOWE. Is that hand or machine composition?

Mr. YOUNG. It is all hand composition.

Captain BRIAN. May I introduce right here at this point—

Mr. HOWE. I would like to ask you if you have anything that shows the volume of work that your office has turned out this session as compared with previous sessions?

Captain BRIAN. I have a little statement here that we prepared, when we found we had to come up here, of the bills—and when I say bills I mean concurrent resolutions and joint resolutions. That statement shows that in this first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress there were 28,236 bills as against 27,903 for the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress. Of reported, referred, and engrossed bills, there were 21,482 in this session as against 17,666 in the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress. Of enrolled bills, there were 4,258 in this session as against 4,139 in the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress. Of laws, there were 4,043 in this session as against 4,139 in the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress. Of House and Senate reports, there were 9,522 this session as against 9,306 for the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress. Of the daily Record, including the index, there were 15,930 pages this session as against 13,765 pages for the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress.

Comparative statement—Bills, resolutions, laws, reports, and daily Record, Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses.

	Fifty-ninth Congress, first session.	Fifty-eighth Congress, first, second, and third sessions.
Senate concurrent resolutions	85	112
Senate resolutions	177	308
Senate joint resolutions	87	115
Senate bills	6,556	7,295
House concurrent resolutions	43	83
House resolutions	631	550
House joint resolutions	189	231
House bills	20,518	19,209
Reported, referred, and engrossed bills	28,236	27,903
Enrolled bills	21,482	17,666
	4,258	4,139
Total bills	53,976	49,708
Laws	4,043	4,039
Reports (Senate and House)	9,522	9,306
Daily Record, including indexes, pages	15,930	13,765

Mr. HOWE. Then this session has justly earned the title of a strenuous session?

Captain BRIAN. That is right, sir; and we claim that we have done everything required of the Printing Office on time and at the proper time.

Mr. HOWE. Have you anything to show to whom this enrolled bill was delivered when it came from your office at 5.35 to the Capitol?

(Captain Brian produced a paper and handed it to Mr. Howe.)

Mr. HOWE. This is signed by W. J. Browning, Chief Clerk of the House.

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. It says, "Parchment copy of H. R. 20410." That is the public buildings bill?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Howe, can I say a word?

Mr. HOWE. Certainly.

Mr. YOUNG. That, you must remember, is what we virtually consider proof. They were parchment copies, that is true, but it is too important a bill to pass through and print, taking it for granted that it is O. K., without considering it as proof. That proof was read in the House and returned by the enrolling clerk as fast as he found a sheet that had to be reprinted. The first page of that was received by our office at 6.16. Of course when I say it was read in the House I mean it was read by the enrolling clerk of the House.

Mr. HOWE. I do not quite understand. Is this matter that Mr. Browning has receipted for, which left your office at 5.35, proof?

Captain BRIAN. No; that was the parchment copy of the bill.

Mr. HOWE. The final copy?

Captain BRIAN. That was the final copy of the bill.

Mr. HOWE. Then what is this matter—

Captain BRIAN. Wait a moment. Then, as in the case Mr. Horne referred to, the enrolling clerk found a change which he wanted made in some pages—corrections.

Mr. HOWE. Oh; were those corrections of errors in his copy to you?

Captain BRIAN. Those were corrections in his copy that he sent back. He read that over, as they do all bills, and he found some corrections or changes that he wanted to make in it.

Mr. HOWE. The point I want to elucidate is this: It is apparent that these corrections or changes operated to delay the completion of the work. Were those errors Printing Office errors or were they errors originating up here?

Captain BRIAN. These omissions and mistakes necessitated the reprinting of nine pages, the first of which were received from the Capitol at 6 o'clock and 16 minutes and the last one was returned at the Capitol at 7 o'clock and 37 minutes.

Mr. HOWE. The last one was returned to the Capitol then?

Captain BRIAN. Yes. They came by separate pages, and were returned by separate pages.

Mr. HOWE. Now, what was my question, Mr. Reporter?

The reporter read the question as follows:

"Mr. HOWE. Were those errors Printing Office errors, or were they errors originating up here?"

Captain BRIAN. On the first two pages there were some errors of the Printing Office as well as errors of the Capitol. The errors on the other pages were errors made at the Capitol, as we understand it.

Mr. HOWE. There were two pages on which—

Captain BRIAN. Page 15 had one error on the Office—pages 1, 2, and 15.

Mr. HOWE. There were three pages containing Printing Office errors and how many pages containing Capitol errors?

Captain BRIAN. These three pages had Capitol errors on them besides, had they not?

Mr. YOUNG. Page 2.

Captain BRIAN. Page 2. Page 15 only had the one error, but page 2 also had a Capitol error.

Mr. HOWE. Then there were seven pages containing Capitol errors?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir; and two Printing Office errors.

Mr. HOWE. Two pages contained Printing Office errors?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Tell me about these errors. Is it your experience that this particular measure is anomalous; is it unusual? Were there more errors in this than there usually are in bills in the closing days of Congress?

Captain BRIAN. No; I think not.

Mr. HOWE. The work was, generally speaking, ordinarily good work?

Captain BRIAN. The work was ordinarily good work. One man on it perhaps did not do as good work as he was accustomed to do.

Mr. HOWE. It might be due to any cause—the heat, or something else?

Captain BRIAN. There are any number of causes.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Young, we will get back to what you were saying.

Mr. YOUNG. Well, I want to say that our last page that was corrected in the Office was returned to the House at 7.37, and that page 4 was sent down a second time on account of some marks that had been made in the first proof that was sent down, and which were not understood by the printer. I called up Mr. McKenney over the telephone and asked him whether the word "court-house" should be inserted in every one of five lines. They told me over the telephone that it should be. I read the lines myself, so as to make sure there would be no mistake about the five lines, and they were corrected accordingly and the revised page delivered. That page 4 came down the second time with three of those items knocked out—not items, but the word "court-house" was knocked out. That was the final print, and that stayed in the Office just eight minutes. It came to the Office at 8.52 and left there at 9 o'clock sharp. That was the final page that we had on that bill.

Mr. HOWE. Generally speaking, what was the condition of the copy as it came in to your office?

Mr. YOUNG. Well, the copy has been about the same this year that it always has been. I have never seen much difference. The only difference is that there is a greater quantity.

Mr. HOWE. Do you often resort to the telephone to elucidate obscure items in the copy?

Mr. YOUNG. Well, no; because as a general thing on an important bill like that they receive proofs.

Mr. HOWE. The only reason they did not receive proofs in this case being that the tension was so great and the hour so late?

Mr. YOUNG. That is it. It would have taken just that much longer to do the work. In other words, of the pages that were printed, there were eleven pages that did not have to be returned to the Printing Office at all. They did not have to go on the press, and it just meant that much time saved.

Mr. HOWE. That is, by anticipation?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir. I will state right now that as far as the bill work is concerned, I have been connected with it since about 1891. The Printing Office has studied all the different points in bill work, and we have done everything we possibly could do to anticipate work. We have even gone so far as to take the bills with the numbered amendments, and have had them entirely ready so that when the official copy came down all we had to do was to send it to the proof room and have it read by that copy. In other words, we do the same work that is done up here at the Capitol. If we did not it would take hours to do the work that we are doing now in a very short time. It is not only in that case, but we will take, for instance, an enrolled bill. The printed bill has been printed with its numbered amendments and we immediately start to enroll it. We run it over. We never wait for the official copy. We run it over, and then have it read by the official copy. When there are large items we set up both the stricken out matter and the italics, so as not to be caught at the last moment with about one or two takes retarding the progress of the whole bill. That has frequently been done. Where one whole page has been stricken out and another whole page put in, in italics, we would set both of those pages in paragraphs to facilitate getting the work out for Congress.

Mr. HOWE. In other words, you spare no effort or expense to expedite this purely Congressional work?

Mr. YOUNG. That is right.

Mr. HOWE. You never allow the general work of the Office to encroach upon the force to an extent that would delay Congressional work?

Mr. YOUNG. No, sir. The Congressional work gets the preference over everything that comes into that Office.

Captain BRIAN. And everything stops for bills, Mr. Howe.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir; the appropriation bills have the right of way. Then, take the supply bills. A supply bill in the House, for instance, has the right of way. Certainly, the man in charge has to use his good judgment. If he was only capable of running one job at a time in a great big office of that kind he would not be of much account; but, as I have said, the supply bills have precedence over all others. Naturally, all the other important bills are taken up then in their order. Reported bills are taken before new bills are. The fact of the matter is that we have handled bills for so many years that we know very nearly what may be called for first without anything being said. You take the appropriation bills, for instance, and give them the preference. Then you take the reported bills and run them out next; you take the public bills and run them out next, and you run the private bills last, which, in the general run, seems to satisfy the Senate and House most. If we took the private pension bills, for instance, and set them up first and let the appropriation bills go to the last, I think we would have war on our hands nearly every morning.

Mr. HOWE. Very likely. Merely as a matter of information, Mr. Young, you say this bill printing is all hand composition?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Machine composition is not feasible?

Mr. YOUNG. Machine composition has not been tried.

Mr. HOWE. It has never been tried?

Mr. YOUNG. I am not prepared to say whether it is feasible or not. I do not see any reason in the world why it should not be feasible, probably, until it could be given a fair trial.

Mr. HOWE. Of course you would not try it during a session of Congress?

Mr. YOUNG. Not during a session of Congress. That would be a very bad time to make any trial. In the first place, to make a trial you would have to be prepared with matrices to do the work. We have the machines, but we have not the matrices to do the work. It would take 14-point type, and we haven't got it.

Mr. HOWE. Do you experience much difficulty in dealing with the copy that the House and Senate send to you?

Mr. YOUNG. Sometimes. Sometimes it is very bad, but just as Captain Brian told you a while ago, the people that are working on bills now have worked on bills for years. There are a great many liberties taken on bills—

Mr. HOWE. What do you mean by liberties?

Mr. YOUNG. I mean that we do not give you copy on the first print of a good many bills. If we did, I don't know what some of them would read like.

Captain BRIAN. That does not refer to any appropriation bills?

Mr. YOUNG. No; nothing excepting, for instance, private pension bills, where a man will take one printed copy and try to doctor it for another man's bill, and he will merely take the name and scratch it out and forget all about the rest of it. In that case it has got to be doctored and the proof sent out and O. K.'d, and, as a general thing, it is all right.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Young, in the case of a bill coming from a committee, what is the practice as to following copy?

Mr. YOUNG. We follow it literally.

Captain BRIAN. Mistakes and everything else?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. And in the case of a bill coming from a committee after having passed one house, is that followed literally?

Mr. YOUNG. All reported bills are followed literally. We make no changes.

Captain BRIAN. The copy must be followed, right or wrong?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Do you not follow all copy literally?

Mr. YOUNG. Except in such instances as I have just stated. If, for instance, a man had a small pension bill, and the party that made up the bill, whether the clerk, the Congressman, or the Senator, had taken an old bill and tried to fit it to a new party, and when you got down into it a little bit deeper you found it was ridiculous—

Mr. HOWE. You would then use your judgment?

Mr. YOUNG. We would use our judgment and make the changes and send out the proof.

Captain BRIAN. That would be a bill something like this, Mr. Young, would it not? "A bill for the pension, or for the relief, of John Smith, a member of the Sixty-ninth New York, Company D," and then in the body of the bill they strike out William Brown and put John Smith in and let it read "Member of Company B, Twenty-first Indiana?"

Mr. YOUNG. That is just the point I wanted to make—the very point.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Young, I would like to ask you just a question about the equipment of your Office or the ability of your Office to do quick work. Take, for instance, any bulky bill—an appropriation bill of, say, 100 pages.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. From clean, clear copy—supposing that you could get clean, clear copy—how long would it take your Office to set that up and deliver it to the House?

Mr. YOUNG. Without anything else in the road at all?

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG. Let me see. I would have to do probably a little bit of figuring on that. I could not give an offhand answer.

Mr. HOWE. I mean approximately.

Mr. YOUNG. I would say a man would set probably about 800 an hour or 1,000 an hour on bills. You ask how long it would take the Office to get that out?

Mr. HOWE. How long would it take the Office to get that out?

Mr. YOUNG. If I had to do the job I would want about three and a half to four hours as an offhand estimate.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Howe, if you will give me a bill making 100 pages that can be divided up into takes of reasonable size, I will guarantee to have that bill printed and delivered to the Capitol in two hours.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Howe was speaking of appropriation bills, in which you are likely to strike almost any kind of items.

Captain BRIAN. Of course, I am talking about a straight bill.

Mr. HOWE. Take a bill like that Alaskan code, for instance.

Captain BRIAN. As I remember the Alaskan code bill, there were a good many long paragraphs in it.

Mr. HOWE. It was a bill of something like 600 pages.

Captain BRIAN. I know it very well. I worked on it, and there were a great many long paragraphs in it that could not be divided.

Mr. HOWE. Would the time be determined by the time necessary for one man to set the longest paragraph?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, practically. In the early part of the work you could not go ahead with your make-up until the man got through. We give the matter out down there in small takes, and we can go right ahead until we strike the make-up, and then we have to wait until we get that long take in.

Mr. HOWE. Of course you always arrange this work in takes?

Captain BRIAN. Always in takes, and short takes.

Mr. YOUNG. I would like to state one thing right there, and that is that when reprint copy comes to the office, if it is a bill that had been introduced probably the previous year, or two or three years before, and only one copy is sent down, we have both sides of the copy to deal with, and you virtually have to give a man two takes instead of one. It all depends entirely upon the class of copy you receive as to how long it will take.

Mr. HOWE. That is why I asked you about the condition of the copy you receive from the Capitol. Of course, during the progress of the recent investigation conducted by the Joint Committee on Printing, it was made apparent that your Office was hampered frequently by receiving very bad copy from some of the Departments?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. And I wondered whether that criticism could be made as to the copy coming from the Capitol.

Mr. YOUNG. Only partially.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask a question? The copy that comes from the enrolling clerks is particularly good copy, is it not?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. That copy is as good as that which comes from Members, is it not?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. I mean the copy coming from the enrolling clerks of the House!

Mr. YOUNG. It is generally in very good condition.

We have the corrected proof, that is, corrected after the anticipated proof is sent to the enrolling office, and they finally put in their corrections. We may have, for instance, two or three galleys, with 20 or 30 amendments. Those 20 or 30 amendments may be increased, by the time we get that proof, to 40 or 45 amendments. Those amendments are pasted and written in on the margins and interlined, and sometimes it is next to impossible to cut it, to give it in small takes to the compositors. As a natural consequence, if you have a galley that you might probably correct, if you could cut it small enough, in a very few minutes, it might take you three-quarters of an hour or a full hour to do the same work if you could not cut it.

Mr. HOWE. What would you gentlemen think of the feasibility of detailing a competent man from your Office to the enrolling offices of the Senate and House during the closing days of Congress, to assist particularly in the preparation of copy, with a view to enabling your Office to handle it expeditiously?

Captain BRIAN. I want to answer that. Mr. Platt, the enrolling clerk of the Senate, is an old graduate of our office. He knows what is required, and I do not think he needs anybody to instruct him or to teach him or to help him. His assistants are equally capable. Mr. McKenney, over on the House side, has been there ten years, and I know he is able and competent. I have never found any difficulty with him. I have been up here and stayed with them both, Mr. Platt and Mr. McKenney, all night, before now. I have waited with them for copy or something to turn up. I think what they do want, particularly on the House side, is more enrolling clerks.

Mr. HOWE. Yet Mr. Young says that frequently copy comes over there so interlined and so patched that it is difficult to distribute it in takes, and I thought very likely if a man familiar with your processes over there were to assist in compiling this copy it would facilitate your work.

Captain BRIAN. That comes from this cause, Mr. Howe: Take a page of copy that the Senate or House has put a great many amendments on, one following right close on after the other. The clerks have got to put them in that sequence in the copy.

Mr. HOWE. I merely asked, to determine if possible, whether any improvements in the methods could be effected.

Captain BRIAN. I do not know that there is anything that could be supplied up here. Mr. Young has been up here. I have been up here with Mr. Young frequently, going over copy with the enrolling clerks

in both Houses. Mr. Platt, as I said before, knows what is required. He formulated the rules for the printing of enrolled bills, and one paragraph reads "that this copy shall be prepared so as to be easily dissected."

Mr. HOWE. I would like to ask you another question, Captain BRIAN. There have been before the Senate and House Committees on Printing several times propositions looking to the installation of a pneumatic-tube service between the Capitol and the Government Printing Office. Would you consider that of advantage to your office, or rather would you consider that the establishment of a tube service would facilitate the work and enable you to handle it more expeditiously than at present?

Captain BRIAN. The only thing would be the time between here and the office. If the copy could get there instantaneously we would be that much ahead.

Mr. YOUNG. It would undoubtedly be a saving of time, approximately a quarter of an hour going and coming.

Mr. HOWE. A quarter of an hour on a very hot night is quite important.

Captain BRIAN. Our young men have gone up to the Capitol very quickly. We have started a messenger and have then telephoned that the messenger had started, and asked them to let us know when he got to the Capitol, and almost before we could get away from the telephone word would be received that the messenger had arrived.

Mr. HOWE. Well, gentlemen, it is getting late, and Saturday is a short day. Mr. Stillings is not here—

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Howe, before you close I want to ask Mr. Young one or two questions. Mr. Young has stated that he had had charge of the bills for a number of years, which we all know. I want to ask him if the force was as efficient in the last session as it has been in previous sessions?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir. And furthermore I think the efficiency of that force has been improved from year to year. That statement is easily understood. If you use the same compositors on the same work they are bound to become more efficient, and I think our force there to-day is as efficient, and more so, than it ever was before.

Mr. HOWE. You have called attention to the great volume of work handled in the Office during this session as compared with the volume of work in the three previous sessions of Congress.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir. I have a statement right here.

Mr. HOWE. You handled that volume of work with practically the same force, or with a larger force?

Mr. YOUNG. We handled it with just seven men less, according to my slip. We might vary probably two or three men from the beginning to the end of the session, but the line up of the session shows just seven men less than it did a year ago.

Captain BRIAN. I believe you said that it has been the practice of the Office to keep the same men where they showed themselves competent for the work?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir; principally those people who have important positions.

Captain BRIAN. And that has been the practice for the past session?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir; it has been.

Captain BRIAN. Will you state whether these men having charge of this work are the same men that have had charge of it for the past number of years?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir; they are. I can name them.

Captain BRIAN. And that has been the practice all through the Office, wherever a man has been proved competent he has been kept in that position without hindrance or interference; is that so or not?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir; it is.

Captain BRIAN. The practice of the present Public Printer is not to make a change where a man is competent and attends to his business. Is that as you understand it?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Howe, we hope you will communicate with Mr. McKenney.

Mr. HOWE. I was about to remark that I will endeavor to reach Mr. McKenney and get from him a first-handed expression on this subject. The resolution under which the Committee on Printing is proceeding does not empower the committee to summon witnesses, but I have no doubt Mr. McKenney would be very glad to express himself to the committee.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask if the committee could not ask Mr. McKenney to send a telegram at the expense of the committee?

Mr. HOWE. Well, I think a more full expression from Mr. McKenney would be desirable. I have not questioned you gentlemen about that other bill, but as it is getting late—

Captain BRIAN. Which other bill is that?

Mr. HOWE. I mean the deficiency bill that appropriated money to carry out the provisions of the—

Captain BRIAN. You do not mean the general deficiency bill?

Mr. HOWE. No.

Captain BRIAN. It is H. R. 20511.

Mr. HOWE. Was there not an urgent deficiency bill—

Captain BRIAN. There was a bill in connection with this appropriating some money, but we have never understood that there was anything the matter with that bill or that there was any complaint about it.

Mr. YOUNG. The general deficiency bill has been brought into controversy.

Mr. W. A. SMITH. There was a deficiency bill that carried an appropriation for the public buildings bill.

Mr. HOWE. That is the bill I mean.

Captain BRIAN. That is H. R. 20511.

Mr. YOUNG. We never understood that there was anything said about that, Mr. Howe. We supposed all the time that it was the general deficiency bill.

Mr. W. A. SMITH. Then there was a resolution to correct an error that occurred in the sundry civil bill.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Referring to the Congressional Record containing the criticism leading to this investigation the statement is made:

It has been difficult to get bills that come here from the House and are ordered to be printed up before the committees acting on them in the time in which we have ordinarily had them. The Printing Office has been heretofore quite a model in that regard. I have sometimes been surprised at the celerity with which, when a bill has been sent there, it is printed and returned here with the amendments numbered.

In the last days of the session this is essential, not only to the comfort of members of this body but to the interests of legislation.

This year, for the first time, it has been hard work to get anything out of the Printing Office. On one of the important bills that we had we waited and waited, and at last the Committee on Appropriations had to go to work and consider an old print, having nothing more, in order to transfer our amendments to the new print; and we could get no satisfaction from the Printing Office for the delay.

Do you know to what bill that relates?

Mr. YOUNG. It must evidently relate to this deficiency appropriation bill.

Mr. HOWE. The general deficiency bill?

Mr. YOUNG. The general deficiency bill, H. R. 20403.

Mr. HOWE. What are the facts in that connection?

Mr. YOUNG. The engrossed amendments in bill H. R. 20403 were received at 10 a. m. Friday, and they were returned at 11.30. The official copy for the numbered amendments was received at 2.35 and it was in the office less than an hour, because the copies were delivered at the Capitol at 3.25. Now, the office anticipated the importance of this bill, and without waiting for the official copy we sent seven forms of this to press before the official copy ever reached the Printing Office. The other five forms were either on the press or on the way down there, and fifty minutes after it was received at the Office it was sent back. That was a bill of 96 pages.

Mr. HOWE. What is the print to which the Senator alludes here when he says that the committee had to consider an old print?

Mr. YOUNG. It must be the numbered amendment print that he was speaking of, that they wished to have, and they must have worked either on the blueprint, which was the engrossed copy of the House, or on the referred copy.

Mr. HOWE. How long did you say the numbered copy matter was in your Office?

Mr. YOUNG. The bill printed with the numbered amendments for the House was in our Office from 2.35 to 3.25.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask a question?

Mr. HOWE. Certainly.

Captain BRIAN. You could not have gotten that bill ready for the press and printed in that time unless you had anticipated it?

Mr. YOUNG. No, sir; we could not.

Mr. HOWE. I know, but it does not seem to me that is the print the Senator refers to, because they would not be considering the numbered copy.

Captain BRIAN. Yes, the conferees were waiting for that, Mr. Howe. May I say right there, that at 2.35 exactly, without knowing what time this copy came into the Office, they called me up and asked me if there could not be something done to expedite this bill.

Mr. HOWE. Who called you up?

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Cleaves; and I went to the foreman's room and saw Mr. Dierken, and he showed me the copy that had just come in, but he also said they had been anticipating it and were that much ahead. That was 2.35 when they were asking me for the bill, and I have found out since that that was the very time it reached the Office. I urged them to put all haste on it and get it up here, and I went to the working division myself, and told them to take no chances on that bill. In fact, I gave them instructions that they should back up the first six copies, and not wait for anything.

Mr. HOWE. Then they asked you for the printed bill before you got the copy, did they?

Captain BRIAN. They asked me over the telephone. Mr. Cleaves called me over the telephone and asked me if we could not do something to expedite that bill. I went to Mr. Dierken and asked him about it, and he said, "The copy has just come in, but we have anticipated it." I commenced to get a little impatient, and I said, "Set some time on it when you can get it out." He says, "Shortly after 3 o'clock." I looked at the clock then and it was just 2.35. I went back to the telephone and I told them we would get it up there very shortly after 3 o'clock. Of course the Printing Office can do almost anything, but they can not print matter until the copy gets there. I am positive it was just 2.35 when I looked at the clock, and I was talking to Mr. Dierken about that time.

Mr. DIERKEN. That copy is prepared by Mr. Matlack, the printing clerk of the House. He gets the printed Senate amendments and then he takes the blueprint and pastes them in. In this case, like all others, we anticipated them, and Mr. Morgan prepared the copy and had it ready and sent it to the press. So that is where we gained at least three hours. If we had had to wait and set that up after he got it down it would have taken that much longer.

Captain BRIAN. One House does not seem to know that the other House has to prepare copy and that it takes a few minutes to get it down there.

Mr. DIERKEN. The proof of those amendments was sent to Mr. Platt at half past 8. He returned it about 10 o'clock and they were sent to press and we printed them, and when Mr. Matlack got the copy of that he commenced his work on the numbered amendment bill.

Captain BRIAN. It was impossible for Mr. Matlack to proceed in preparing his copy until he got the engrossed copy, with the engrossed amendments prepared by Mr. Platt.

Mr. HOWE. I see; the Senate has the amendments engrossed?

Captain BRIAN. The Senate has the amendments engrossed.

Mr. HOWE. And sent to the House?

Captain BRIAN. And sent over to the House. The House must get them before they can prepare the bill for the printer.

Mr. YOUNG. I can explain that to you by the aid of these [indicating papers]. These are what we call engrossed amendments of the Senate to House bills.

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG. This is amendment No. 1. Mr. Matlack takes his copy, which is a blueprint, with that sent over to the Senate as passed by the House. He looks at page 2, line 6, and strikes out the words "one hundred" and inserts the words "seventy-five," as per instructions in that amendment; and he does the same way with each one of these. He takes this copy of the blueprint. For instance, page 2, line 6, strike out "one hundred." He does this way [illustrating], and he inserts "seventy-five" line that [illustrating]. Do you see?

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG. Now that would be, when we get it, amendment No. 1, printed in this shape [indicating].

Mr. HOWE. I see.

Mr. YOUNG. There is your amendment No. 1, only that happened to be an entire paragraph. When he strikes one of these paragraphs he takes a pair of shears and cuts it out and pastes it on the margin.

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG. And when it comes to us it is in that shape [indicating]; and we in the meantime have anticipated all this by taking the reported bill and using that for our copy. We know what the engrossed amendments are, and we fix up our reported bill. By the time Mr. Matlack's copy comes down there we are already through with it, and are ready to send it to the proof room, or very near it.

Mr. HOWE. Well, on a work of that complexity and magnitude, of course time must be consumed in preparing the copy.

Captain BRIAN. You see, the difficulty would be that the enrolling clerk might get hold of the wrong line. He has to be very careful. He has to compare it after he has prepared it.

Mr. YOUNG. I think it was just as Mr. McKenney expressed himself. There was no delay anywhere. It just could not be done any faster.

Mr. HOWE. I will get an original statement from Mr. McKenney.

Mr. YOUNG. I think his statement, as he gave it to Captain Brian, covered the ground so thoroughly that there could not be any fault found.

Mr. HOWE. And his statement, as Captain Brian has quoted it, is practically all he said on the subject?

Captain BRIAN. I do not think I made it as strong as Mr. McKenney did.

Mr. HOWE. When Mr. Stillings is able to appear a continuance of this inquiry will be conducted. We will now adjourn, subject to notice.

The committee (at 2 o'clock p. m.) adjourned, subject to notice.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
July 10, 1906—3.15 o'clock p. m.

Met pursuant to notice at the apartments of Charles A. Stillings, the Ontario, Washington, D. C.

Present: Mr. A. H. Howe, representing the Committee on Printing.

Also Mr. Charles A. Stillings, Public Printer; Captain Brian, Mr. Young, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Spottswood.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES A. STILLINGS, PUBLIC PRINTER.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Stillings, you are familiar with the purpose of this investigation, and it will not be necessary for me to restate it?

Mr. STILLINGS. No, sir; I think I understand it pretty clearly.

Mr. HOWE. The committee is sorry you are indisposed and ordinarily would have waited until you could be out, but I have very pressing business that calls me to New York, so that I have come up here to question you.

Mr. STILLINGS. I regret very much that I have not been able to get out. I would have come down to-day, but my doctor cautioned me against it. He said I might be out the first of next week, but that it might be next Monday, or two weeks from next Monday.

Mr. HOWE. I thought that under those uncertain conditions I would just come out and take your testimony here.

Mr. STILLINGS. It is very kind of you.

Mr. HOWE. Will you inform the committee as to the time when you assumed the duties of Public Printer?

Mr. STILLINGS. It was either November 27 or 28. I think it was November 27, 1905.

Mr. HOWE. I would like to know something about your experience in the printing business prior to your connection with the Printing Office.

Mr. STILLINGS. I have been connected with printing—from errand boy up to general manager—since I was 13 years old. I started in the business with my father, outside of school hours, handling electrotype plates and handling forms, doing printer's devil work, etc. I finally left school of my own volition to go to work for him, and I worked through all the departments, at the case, on the stone, cleaning presses, making ready, running presses, and doing all of the routine work and some portions of the bindery work, up to the time when I was 17 years of age, when I gradually grew familiar with the other portions of the work, the stock room, shipping department, office, and clerical work; then salesman, business manager, and financial manager—practically the active manager of the whole business.

That covers the period from the time I was 13 years of age up until I was 32, in 1903, when I accepted the appointment as manager of the printers' board of trade, of Washington, an association of master printers in this city, composed of the leading men in the trade. My duties were such that I had to have a thorough training in the business, both from a practical and the office and financial standpoints. It was necessary to have a thorough grasp of the details of the entire printing business in order to act in the advisory capacity which I had to. In April, 1905, I accepted the appointment to the largest printers' board of trade in the United States, in New York City, where I was manager of both the printers' and bookbinders' boards. The duties were similar to those I had performed for the printers' board of trade in Washington, although, of course, on a larger scale. These boards are said to be the largest in the United States. From there I was appointed to the position of Public Printer.

Mr. HOWE. Then you have had experience in the execution of large contracts?

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes, sir. Probably my prior experience would cover a greater variety of printing, although not a greater volume or requiring greater exactness, as regards correctness of service, than is demanded of the Public Printer in the Government Printing Office.

Mr. HOWE. Has your experience led you to employ large numbers of men?

Mr. STILLINGS. As to the printing trade, yes; but no private printing establishment could compare with the Government Office.

Mr. HOWE. I would like to ask you something about your general policy in the office of the Government Printing Office since you have taken charge, as to whether it differs materially from the policy of your predecessors, as you understand that policy.

Mr. STILLINGS. In taking charge of the Office I accepted every man at his face value; that is, I assumed that every man there was competent; and such removals as have been made have been for just cause, such as insubordination, unreliability, inefficiency, or illness—physical disability. I found that the force was ample to do the work; in fact,

at the time I went there it was considerably larger than was really necessary. This session of Congress has been so heavy that it has taken our full force in the typographical department to keep up with it, and my policy has been to retain every efficient man in the position he occupied when I went there, and to make such promotions as were necessary from those men.

So far as my dealings with the night forces at the Office, detailed specially to serve the needs of Congress, and particularly the force known as the night bill and Record force, are concerned, I made it my especial business immediately after assuming office to go over the personnel of that force very carefully with the foreman of printing, and I have not departed in a single instance from the policy of keeping tried and experienced men at the vital points; that is, I considered that the work of Congress was the vital work of the Office and must have precedence over everything else; that Congress must not be allowed to suffer through delays caused by incompetence or lack of knowledge of the requirements of Congress, and after appointing these men I have followed their work very carefully. I have not seen any reason to believe that I made a mistake.

Mr. HOWE. Then the removals under your administration have not been frequent, I take it, and have not been extensive. That is, the personnel of the force is practically the same now as it has been?

Mr. STILLINGS. Practically so; yes. Those who have been dismissed have taken the initiative themselves. They have brought themselves to my attention. I have not gone hunting for them.

Mr. HOWE. I should like to ask your opinion, Mr. Stillings, of the qualifications of the skilled mechanics in your Office as compared with the qualifications of those you have had to deal with in private business, particularly with regard to the force that has charge of the execution of Congressional work.

Mr. STILLINGS. With the exception of the very small percentage which you would expect to find in any force of men, in my opinion we have a gathering of mechanics, both in the typographical line and in the other departments, that can not be excelled in this country. I think the Government Printing Office possesses the highest type of skilled craftsmen, particularly in the typographical division, not only because of their skill in handling type metals but because the average intelligence of the men is higher, very much higher; and so far as the bill and Record force goes, I think that is particularly exemplified in that the men carry to their work the proper comprehension of what they are doing. They are not mere automatons, as is sometimes the case where men are doing ordinary bookwork, but they really understand the work that is going through their hands.

Very often that very knowledge and interest in their work saves their superior officers in many cases where oversight might possibly occur in the hurry of getting out the work. Therefore their value in the office is increased to that extent. They might be properly termed specialists. They are distinguished from the ordinary printers just as a high-grade color lithographer would be distinguished from an ordinary commercial lithographer. Just in that way the bill and Record force may be distinguished from the ordinary straight-matter compositors.

Mr. HOWE. The impression prevails, Mr. Stillings, that you have exercised very strict discipline in your Office, a discipline much more

strict than has ever been employed in the administration of the Office heretofore. I should like to ask whether you have found that your men have become dissatisfied, or negligent, or indifferent, or unsettled as a result of that degree of discipline?

Mr. STILLINGS. The general statement has been made that the new Public Printer was seeking to make a prison out of the Government Printing Office, and that statement emanates, as near as I can trace it, from that element which is reached by such discipline as I have brought about. If the conditions were as we would like to have them there would not be any particularly noticeable discipline. There was grave need of discipline, and it was occasioned by a small percentage of the force, many of whom have since been dropped, and those, to my knowledge, after a careful examination, were the only ones who have made complaint.

Mr. HOWE. Then you do not believe that any restrictive measures that you have adopted out there have unfitted your force or tended to impair its efficiency in the execution of Congressional work?

Mr. STILLINGS. No, sir; on the contrary I believe that it has had a good effect; that it has encouraged the officers in their endeavors to keep the standard of the Office up, and that it has shown those of our weaker brothers that they must come up to the proper standard, which would naturally result in closer attention to business and better quality and increased quantity of production. Several experienced master printers from different parts of the country have visited the Office and many of them have been previous visitors there.

I believe they are honest in their opinions expressed to me to the effect that there is now greater attention paid to the work in hand and less curiosity to size up visitors; and while that might perhaps be construed, in a way, as being said to please me, I have the further proof in that the general output of the Office has been very much larger. Noticeably on the Congressional work it has been, according to our records, three times larger than for any single session of the Fifty-eighth Congress. So far as the departmental work goes, I have not the data before me, but I do know that we have been extremely busy, and that we have handled a greater volume of business and that without the necessity of putting on as many temporary compositors as we have had to put on in past years and without any additions to our regular force.

Mr. HOWE. Have you any system in vogue there that would enable you to compare the quality and quantity of the work turned out with that of previous sessions?

Mr. STILLINGS. Not as thorough a system as I propose to have; no, sir. There is a general way of averaging it, but not close enough to permit me to make a statement at this time. I believe in the course of the next sixty days I can make a fairly reliable comparative statement as to the general output of the Office.

Mr. HOWE. You are proposing, then, to inaugurate a system that will enable you to keep a thorough check on all the operations?

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes, sir; it is quite a long and tedious operation, but it can be done, and I propose starting it very shortly.

Mr. HOWE. Have you been cognizant of any complaints from Congress since you have taken charge of the Office, as to inferiority in the work; and if so, what steps have you taken to remedy the conditions complained of?

Mr. STILLINGS. Referring to the Congressional work, there have been two minor matters brought to my attention by two of the officials connected with the Senate. Both of those matters had my personal attention, and they were so small that they appeared to merit no reprimand from me, but rather a caution to our messengers and those in charge of the bills, to exercise the greatest amount of promptness in delivery. Those matters occurred somewhat early in my administration, and no repetition of those complaints have ever been brought to my attention. I have taken occasion to inquire whether there was any ground upon which such complaints could be founded and I could get no positive statement, or even a general statement, that there was anything that did not compare favorably with previous years.

Mr. HOWE. You are familiar, of course, with the complaint made in the Senate on the closing day of the session as to the difficulty Congress had experienced in getting work back from the Printing Office. Will you express yourself on that?

Mr. STILLINGS. Immediately after that statement appeared in the press on Sunday morning, July 1, I visited the Office and took up the matter with the chief clerk and foreman of printing and the subforeman in charge of the enrolled bills. I found that according to our records the Office had done all it possibly could do; that it was guilty of two or three errors in proof reading, which are not to be unexpected or really possible to avoid, owing to the rushed condition of the Office, and very many other conditions that every printer understands.

After going over the matter fully I called upon Senator Hale and went over the matter with him; and after expressing the regrets of the Office for the inconvenience caused to the Senate, I further stated that a superficial examination seemed to show that our Office could not have done better than it did, barring the errors in proof reading, which I was personally perfectly willing to forgive, because our men are only human; and they had done such extremely good work all through the session that it was not at all surprising that some slight error might creep in among the proof-reading force. On further examination I found that those errors which were on the Government Printing Office force had not really occasioned any delay in the completion of the work, because of other alterations made necessary by the order of the enrolling force of the House. Therefore I can not see where at any point the work was delayed even five minutes by the Government Printing Office.

Mr. HOWE. The errors in proof reading that you refer to you think did not operate to greatly delay the work?

Mr. STILLINGS. No, for the reason that while the other pages were being read by the enrolling clerk these pages in question had been corrected and substituted before they had completed the examination of the bill.

Mr. HOWE. How about the efficiency of your proof-reading force?

Mr. STILLINGS. I believe that with very few exceptions they are a most efficient class of men. Of course it is not possible to assign proof readers on bill work who have never had experience and expect them to have the same grasp of the subject that you would expect of men who have been through one season or more of that work. Great care was exercised in the selection of the proof readers. Those men had already had a very strenuous experience in the present session, so that

I do not feel that any excuse that might be made for a green proof reader on the class of work that was entrusted to them would have any bearing on the case. These men were experienced, and, in my opinion, such errors as they made, while they are to be deplored, are not to be covered over or glossed over for a minute. They are mistakes, and those are the chances that every printer has against him, whether in the Government service or in a commercial house.

The chances of errors in proof reading are very, very marked, and it is well known that a proof reader, no matter how careful he may be, though he may go over the proof three, four, and even five times, will pass the same error without noticing it. For some reason that is unexplained, the eye fails to convey to the brain the fact that there is an error; and yet the second proof reader, who may not be, perhaps, as competent as the first one along general lines—that is, he may not be as good a grammarian—will discover that error. That is one of the weak points in the business which has to be safeguarded with the utmost care.

Mr. HOWE. It is simply a case of human fallibility, then?

Mr. STILLINGS. That is the idea. It can not be overcome. You do not know when it is going to occur, and you have to look out for it and safeguard yourself as well as you can. If errors then occur, they are attributed to the general condition of things, and you do the best you can to overcome them as you find them out.

Mr. HOWE. In looking over the remarks in the Record on this subject, I notice that a certain Senator sought to excuse the Printing Office for the alleged delays on the ground that you were ill and unable to be present. I should like to ask you whether your force is lacking in discipline to such an extent that your absence would result in their going to pieces, as it were, or whether you consider it essential to the good management of an establishment of that kind that the Public Printer should personally be present every moment of the time?

Mr. STILLINGS. While I appreciate the kindly thought on the part of the Senator who presented that side of the case, at the same time that would not hold good from a purely business standpoint, because the test of thorough organization and of the ability of the head of the house to place the right men at the vitals of the business, comes when he is away. When the head of the house is absent every well-managed business should go on. Whether the head of the house is absent or some other cog in the wheel is missing, it should still be so well organized that it goes on just the same.

I maintain, without claiming any credit myself except for recognizing ability where I found it, that the Government Printing Office has proceeded in the last few weeks on just as thorough lines as if I had been there. Every point has been safeguarded and watched with the utmost fidelity. So far as any necessity for my being there personally is concerned, outside of the technical necessity of putting my signature to checks for the payment of funds, there has been none. The same thoroughness, the same care, the same watchfulness has been exhibited at all points, so that the work of the Office is to-day right up to date, right up to this particular date, as compared with previous years. Nothing has suffered because of my absence.

Mr. HOWE. Actually, you were not absent continuously during those latter days of the session, were you?

Mr. STILLINGS. No, sir. During the last week of June there were a great many matters which should have been closed up in the latter part of May, had I been able to be at the Office; but I had been feeling quite poorly for some days previous to giving up active work, and much work had piled up there which really made it necessary for me to be there. I either had to handle it at my home or go to the Office, and in view of the fact that my physician thought I could do so without serious injury, and that it would be much more convenient for the officers at the Government Printing Office to have me there rather than to be constantly traveling up to my home, I made it a point to be there for at least six hours a day on every day during the last week in June, except Saturday, when I knew everybody would be extremely busy and naturally on the jump to close up the tail ends of printing for Congress.

Largely because of that one feature, because I knew that a great many Senators and Representatives would be leaving town and many of them wanted to see me personally; and for their convenience as well as the satisfaction of being on the ground myself, I reached the Office at 10 o'clock in the morning and I did not leave there until 7.30 o'clock in the evening, and then only on the assurance of the officials in charge that every request of Congress had been complied with right up to the minute. And on investigation I found that the statements made to me by those officers were absolutely correct.

Mr. HOWE. Is there any possibility under your system that departmental or other work would encroach upon Congressional work?

Mr. STILLINGS. No, sir; for the reason that even if I were not disposed to take the initiative in the matter, the officials in charge of the various departments of the Office are too well posted upon the necessities of Congress to allow me to make such an error as that. It is understood that Congressional work has the right of way over everything. That was the primary reason for establishing the Government Printing Office, and I have never lost sight of that from the first moment I took charge of it. It has been my especial care that nothing should take precedence over Congressional work, either day or night. That is understood. It is the unwritten law of the Office that the decks are clear for Congressional work always, and that if there is a choice between the two, the Congressional work has the right of way.

Mr. HOWE. That is absolutely the case?

Mr. STILLINGS. That is absolutely the case.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Stillings, would this bill work be regarded in a private enterprise as high-grade printing?

Mr. STILLINGS. No, sir; as regards quality it would be ranked with a very ordinary class of commercial work or, compared with bookwork, with the most ordinary class of bookwork.

Mr. HOWE. Is it of a character that admits of what you might call extreme expedition?

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes, sir; the nature of the work and the method of handling it is such that our Office can handle it with extreme haste and with a maximum amount of correctness and thoroughness; but it would not be possible to take that same work to any commercial plant of which I have any knowledge, unless they were trained very carefully and very thoroughly, and expect to get the work with the same accuracy and the same promptness that you would get it from the

Government Printing Office. I have been in this business all my life, and I have marveled at the thoroughness and promptness with which that work was handled. There has always seemed to be as thorough an appreciation of the needs of Congress at our end of the line as was shown by the clerks at the other end of the line, at the Capitol, and that has, in my opinion, done much to enable our Office to give prompt service.

Mr. HOWE. I gathered from something that was said the other day that your bill force there sometimes assume almost editorial functions.

Mr. STILLINGS. I have been informed by officials in charge of this work that they have many times foreseen the probable action of Congress and have taken chances on that action, and have gone ahead and produced the work.

Mr. HOWE. I was not referring so much to the matter of anticipation, because that is a practice which is as old as the Office, I presume; but I gathered that sometimes something comes over to you so carelessly prepared as to be apparently erroneous and that in such cases your men assume to make the necessary corrections.

Mr. STILLINGS. We call the attention of the proper officers at the Capitol to the cases; if we did not do so we would be compelled to go all over our work a second time. That is where the experience of the men and the officers count. It saves more time to Congress than would be realized unless a record were kept of it.

Mr. HOWE. You are generally familiar with the line of inquiry that the committee made the other day—Saturday? Do you feel that the amount of time consumed by the Office in returning to the Capitol the matter regarding which complaint has been made was reasonable from the Office standpoint?

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes, sir; I think it was remarkably expeditious and if any comment were to be made upon it at all it would be that the work was done so quickly.

Mr. HOWE. There was a statement made by Captain Brian the other day regarding some expressions from Mr. McKenney, the enrolling clerk of the House, to the effect that the work of the Printing Office had been as expeditious as usual, and it appears that Mr. McKenney had been asked to make the same statement to you. Did he make any expression to you on that subject?

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes, sir; I feel at perfect liberty to quote Mr. McKenney, because he made this statement for the express purpose of bringing some comfort to those of us who were so much exercised over the proposition. It was to this effect: That the enrolling force of the House, when the volume of matter was turned over to them to be put in shape, realized that they had more than they could do in several hours, and Mr. McKenney told me that he made the statement early in the day that it would not be possible to get those bills in shape so that Congress could adjourn before 10 o'clock at night. He further stated that the service of the Government Printing Office had been noticeably prompt and correct all through this session, and that a grave injustice had been done the Government Printing Office in accusing it of having any part whatever in the alleged delay in completing the enrolling of those bills.

He further said that no reasonable cause of delay could be assigned to anybody, for the reason that he and the enrolling committee had been worked to the limit to get the work through promptly and

correctly, and that they could not have done it any more quickly or any more correctly in less time than they took; and that our Office was perfectly helpless in the matter, because we could not print the sheets necessary to complete the work until they gave them to us, and they had to take the necessary time to go through the work and be sure that such changes as appeared to be necessary were actually necessary before ordering us to make them.

Mr. HOWE. As I understand it, there was an error in the enrollment of the sundry civil bill which produced some consternation, and I suppose when Mr. McKenney came to the point of enrolling the public buildings bill he took particular pains to make his enrollment very carefully and very thoroughly, so as to avoid a repetition of that error.

Mr. STILLINGS. Mr. McKenney stated that he did not read that bill. I understood from him that it was read by the Committee on Enrolled Bills, and when the bill was turned over to him he asked what about that paragraph and was informed that it was all right and should remain in the bill, and the Government Printing Office was ordered to print it that way and did print it that way.

Mr. HOWE. I only allude to the error in the sundry civil bill to elucidate the probable fact that Mr. McKenney was extra cautious in enrolling the later bills, so as to avoid a repetition of the error.

Mr. STILLINGS. He stated with reference to that bill that he had called attention to those items himself.

Mr. HOWE. Any inquiry into that error in the sundry civil bill of course would rather transcend the scope of this investigation, except as it might have some bearing upon Mr. McKenney's subsequent caution.

Mr. STILLINGS. A little further than that, Mr. Howe, if I may be permitted to suggest it: This bill has in the mind of the public itself and I think in the minds of a great many Senators—

Mr. HOWE. You are speaking of the sundry civil bill?

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes, sir; this bill is indirectly, at least, connected with the public buildings bill. I think that was the name of the last bill in question, and the general inference has been—and I may say that that has been the impression on my mind since Sunday morning, July 1—that there were two bills in question, and that where one might have been, perhaps, overlooked and nothing much made of it, at the same time that somewhere along the line the Government Printing Office had failed to make good on that bill as well as on the other, and that there must be a badly disorganized condition of affairs at the Government Printing Office to have brought about any such results. On investigation of that particular bill—the sundry civil bill—I found that our Office was in no way to blame, nor do I understand that any one familiar with the facts charged this error to our Office.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Stillings, where do you draw the line in your exercise of the editorial function?

Mr. STILLINGS. In a case of this kind we absolutely follow copy literally, unless we saw what looked like an error, when we would communicate with the proper official and raise a question, as any good printer will do who has his customer's best interests at heart, provided he saw what he supposed to be a mistake. At the eleventh hour, with everybody on the jump and Congress waiting, and with clearly marked proof in hand to go ahead, we would not be warranted in doing that unless we thought that an error had been made. Of course, under

these conditions, it would be a moral obligation on us to protect Congress and the officials in charge.

Mr. YOUNG. May I add a few words?

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes; so far as I am concerned.

Mr. YOUNG. The point is this, in following copy on bills, that after the bill is once reported, the Government Printing Office is entirely powerless to make any changes. That is the point we follow literally. We can call attention to the proof, but after the bill is once reported, or enrolled, or engrossed, we are powerless to make any change whatever.

Mr. HOWE. That is where you draw the line?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir; it then becomes the law of the House. A bill is only a bill, but when it becomes an act we have no right to make any change whatever.

Mr. HOWE. Is there anything more along these general lines that you care to say, Mr. Stillings?

Mr. STILLINGS. No, sir.

Mr. HOWE. I would like to ask Captain Brian and Mr. Young one or two questions, now that they are here. We undertook to trace the other day, you know, the public buildings bill and the general deficiency bill?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. I had it in mind that one of the elements entering into the delay concerned this little deficiency bill, which was passed after the public buildings bill, to carry into effect the provisions of the public buildings bill, and you gentlemen corrected me on that and said that the criticism, in your judgment, related to the general deficiency bill.

Captain BRIAN. That is right, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Is it not the fact that after the passage of the public buildings bill this supplemental deficiency bill was taken up and passed by both Houses, and was it not a fact that the necessity of acting upon that measure had something to do with delaying the adjournment of Congress?

Captain BRIAN. That is a question that I do not know about, Mr. Howe. We only printed that twice, I think.

Mr. HOWE. What is the number of that bill?

Captain BRIAN. H. R. 20511. It appears that they passed that while they were waiting for the public buildings bill.

Mr. HOWE. Have you anything there that would show the time when you received the copy on that bill 20511, Mr. Young?

Mr. YOUNG. It was received at 1.50 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. There was no number on that bill.

Mr. HOWE. There was no number?

Mr. YOUNG. There was no number at that time.

Mr. HOWE. It came to you at 1.50 o'clock—

Mr. YOUNG. At 1.50 o'clock, without a number. The Office telephoned for a number, and the copy was returned to Mr. McKenney at his request for correction. That made a delay of about forty-five minutes, and then a new copy—

Mr. HOWE. Just wait a moment. That first copy that you received, which was subsequently corrected by the addition of the number, was the bill as it passed the House, was it?

Mr. YOUNG. That is 20511, for enrollment.

Captain BRIAN. For engrossment?

Mr. YOUNG. For engrossment; yes.

Mr. HOWE. When did you return it after having received it the second time?

Mr. YOUNG. It was delayed about forty-five minutes. Then the new copy with full typewritten pages was furnished, with orders not to cut the copy.

Mr. HOWE. At what time?

Mr. YOUNG. With orders not to cut the copy. The copy was to be kept intact and not to be cut. That made it a very bad job for a printer to handle. That was sent to press at 4.30 in the afternoon.

Mr. HOWE. That was at the expiration of the forty-five minutes?

Mr. YOUNG. About forty-five minutes after it had been received at 1.50. That would make it probably 2.35.

Mr. HOWE. And then it rested in your Office until when?

Mr. YOUNG. Until 4.30.

Mr. HOWE. The amount of time consumed at your Office was determined somewhat by the instructions you got regarding—

Mr. YOUNG. The cutting of the copy.

Mr. HOWE. The mutilation of the copy?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir. That was a 26-page bill, and it took about two hours.

Mr. HOWE. Then, of course, it presumably went to the Senate?

Mr. YOUNG. It went to the Senate and was then sent down. We did not even wait for that.

Mr. HOWE. You have not anything there, have you, to show when it went to the Senate?

Mr. YOUNG. No, sir; that is determined by the House.

Mr. HOWE. Is there a Congressional Record that would throw any light on the subject—Saturday's Record?

Captain BRIAN. I do not think we have one here, Mr. Howe.

Mr. STILLINGS. I think there is one there.

(A copy of the Congressional Record of Saturday, June 30, 1906, was produced and handed to Mr. Howe.)

Mr. HOWE. Here it is. There was a recess at 1.55, followed by considerable debate, and then Senator Kean moved that a recess be taken until 7 o'clock, and we can only guess at the time.

Captain BRIAN. It was about 5 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Very likely it was about 5 o'clock, as you say, Captain Brian. Then came a message from the House announcing that the House had passed the bill H. R. 20511, making appropriations for certain public buildings authorized by the act approved June 30, 1906, and so forth, which was immediately considered and passed in the Senate, and the Senate, at 6 o'clock and 17 minutes, took a recess. Now, when did you get it after that?

Mr. YOUNG. We did not wait for any enrollment copy at all.

Mr. HOWE. After the Senate passes it it goes back to the House, does it, for enrollment?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes; for enrollment.

Captain BRIAN. After the Senate passes that it is the procedure, I believe, that the Senate notifies the House they have passed that bill without amendment, and that would then, as soon as the House takes action on it, throw it on the enrolling clerk for enrollment, and, if I may continue, in the meantime we had enrolled the bill.

Mr. HOWE. Anticipating it?

Captain BRIAN. We had enrolled it on faith. We had it enrolled. What time did you say it passed the Senate, about?

Mr. HOWE. It passed the Senate—

Captain BRIAN. Before the 7 o'clock recess, was it not?

Mr. HOWE. It passed the Senate just before the recess at 6 o'clock and 17 minutes.

Captain BRIAN. And at 5 o'clock and 49 minutes we sent that parchment copy to the Capitol. I do not think you can show any delay on that bill.

Mr. YOUNG. Nobody charged anything on that one. That was kept in the background so thoroughly that nobody knew anything about it.

Mr. STILLINGS. We ought to have a rebate on that one. [Laughter.]

Mr. HOWE. I have heard about a stenographer who was so expert that when the judge completed his charge to the jury the stenographer was 300 words ahead of him. [Laughter.]

Mr. YOUNG. That shows just how that work can be advanced when the Senate passes a bill without amendment. We knew that it was correct. We knew it was all right, and we could put it on the press and print it the minute we knew it was passed by the Senate without amendment; but if that bill had had a dozen or two dozen amendments—for instance, like the 20410 bill had—it would have come down from the Capitol and would have gone to the proof room, and after being corrected and read would have been printed; but this was all anticipated. There were no errors, and we knew there were no errors, and we went ahead with the bill. That is why it was delivered on such short notice.

Captain BRIAN. You mean there were no amendments—not errors.

Mr. YOUNG. I mean there were no amendments. Change that.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Young, the other day you had in your hand a little statement setting forth the procedure of—

Mr. YOUNG. The bill work?

Mr. HOWE. The bill work.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. I should like to get that into the record.

Mr. YOUNG. I will read it to you, if you wish.

Mr. HOWE. Very well.

Mr. YOUNG. This covers the appropriation bill. As a general thing we call them supply bills. This public buildings bill would probably go in that category, although it does not go before an appropriation committee. When a supply bill is first received from the House it is, as a general rule, printed confidentially for the subcommittee. It is then printed confidentially for report to the full committee. After changes are finally made by the full committee it is given a number and reported to the House. After consideration of the bill by the House it is printed in engrossed form on blue paper for the House, and in turn again printed on white paper for the Senate, carrying the action of being referred to the proper committee. It is then printed for the use of the Senate as reported by the committee.

After being passed by the Senate, the changes are indicated in a separate print called the engrossed amendments of the Senate. These amendments are numbered, and when referred to the House the bill proper is ordered printed with the numbered amendments of the Senate. From this print the enrolling clerks make up the copy for the

enrolled bill, which is then printed on parchment, and, after being signed by the presiding officers of both Houses, and finally by the President of the United States, it is printed as a public law, which is the final disposition until it is embodied in the Statutes.

That covers the usual run of appropriation bills. We frequently have two or three subcommittee prints and two or three full committee prints before they finally get ready to report the bill.

Mr. HOWE. Those are private prints?

Mr. YOUNG. Those are private prints. They have the first, second, third, and fourth prints, until they get it finally in such shape that they wish to report it.

Mr. HOWE. To recur to that general deficiency bill, number 20403—

Mr. YOUNG. The general deficiency bill, or the public buildings bill?

Mr. HOWE. The general deficiency bill?

Mr. YOUNG. That was numbered 20403.

Mr. HOWE. You said the other day that the engrossed amendments were received at 10 o'clock a. m. on Friday and were returned at 11.30.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. As I understand it, that is the form in which it passed the Senate?

Mr. YOUNG. Those are the engrossed amendments by the Senate on the bill; yes, sir. That is printed on white writing paper in this form [indicating].

Mr. HOWE. Then you say that the official copy for the number 20403 amendments was received at 2.35, and it was in the office less than an hour?

Mr. YOUNG. The copies were delivered in less than an hour, yes.

Mr. HOWE. What copy is that? That is the form in which it was agreed to by the House?

Mr. YOUNG. That is the form in which it is printed for the House with the amendments of the Senate numbered, in this form [indicating].

Mr. HOWE. Then it goes to the conference. That is the next step, is it not?

Mr. YOUNG. It goes to the conference then.

Mr. HOWE. When did it come back to you again?

Mr. YOUNG. On this print, it comes back in enrolled form.

Mr. HOWE. Have you anything to show when it came back to you in enrolled form? I do not think that was touched on the other day and I want to complete the record.

Mr. YOUNG. No, sir; I do not know.

Mr. MORGAN. It came back about 9 o'clock—between 9 and 10 o'clock—on Friday night, and we delivered it about 3 o'clock in the morning, on Saturday morning. It was some time in the morning— I think about 3 o'clock—that we delivered it.

Mr. HOWE. That is, Saturday?

Mr. MORGAN. That was Saturday morning at 3 o'clock. The messengers were going up all night.

Mr. YOUNG. We are speaking of Friday's work throughout this bill. This is all Friday's work that we are talking about now.

Mr. HOWE. I know, but my inquiry was not as full the other day as I wanted it to be.

r. YOUNG. That was delivered in the evening and enrolled during night when I was home.

r. MORGAN. We received it at night, sometime between 9 and 10 o'clock. It came right after the agricultural bill.

r. YOUNG. I know that the first thing I asked in the morning was whether this bill had been enrolled or not, and they said it had been, had been delivered.

r. HOWE. There was no particular reason for haste at that hour, is there?

r. YOUNG. Only that the enrolling clerks were waiting for it. It is a very large bill—one of the general supply bills—and it has to be read; it has to be run over.

r. HOWE. Then the time consumed between 9 and 10 o'clock on Friday night, and 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, was not an unusual consumption of time?

r. YOUNG. No, sir.

r. MORGAN. The bill was not reached, you know, because we had a number of bills in there being printed during the evening. As fast as those supply bills came in we went ahead with them. We had about 100 forms on Friday and during the night, and they were delivered Saturday morning by 5 o'clock. Every bill was delivered a few minutes after 5.

r. HOWE. The amount of time consumed in the Printing Office in printing that general deficiency bill, actually, did not invite criticism?

r. MORGAN. No.

r. HOWE. Because Congress was not in session at the time.

r. MORGAN. We were rushing all those bills for the use of the committee, although we did not rush them to the extent that we do during the day when Congress is in session. What we wanted to do was to keep the enrolling clerks busy, and they did not have to call on the entire night for bills to read. They have to read all the bills we send out, and our aim was to keep them busy all the time; they did not have to wait on the Office for bills to read.

r. HOWE. They had the general deficiency bill, then, in ample time for the use of Congress next day?

r. MORGAN. Yes, sir.

r. YOUNG. The controversy arose, virtually, over this very print which they received in less than an hour's time from the Printing Office, because of our anticipation of it.

Captain BRIAN. That was the print with the numbered amendments.

r. YOUNG. That was the print the conference committee was waiting for.

r. HOWE. That was received at 2.35 and delivered at 3.25 p. m. on Friday?

r. YOUNG. Yes, sir; that was the print over which there was controversy, if there was any controversy over any. Certainly, so far as the hearing of the controversy was concerned, it was only hearsay.

r. HOWE. I want to get a little more clearly in mind the facts concerning the criticism the Senator made when he said that, with respect to a certain bill under consideration by the Committee on Appropriations, they waited and waited, and finally had to go to work and concur in an old print, having nothing more, in order to transfer their amendments to the new print. You think that was the general deficiency bill.

Mr. YOUNG. I do not think it could have been any other bill, because the Appropriation Committee has nothing whatever to do with the public buildings bill, from what I understand.

Captain BRIAN. That was the bill, Mr. Howe, because they asked for that bill just about that time.

Mr. HOWE. I am not quite clear as to why the Committee on Appropriations were waiting for that print in order to work on it.

Captain BRIAN. It was for the conference committee, Mr. Howe. The conference committee wanted it.

Mr. HOWE. Oh, the conference committee.

Mr. YOUNG. They wanted to make their report.

Captain BRIAN. The conference committee wanted to work on that, sir.

Mr. HOWE. What day was that, do you think?

Captain BRIAN. That was Friday.

Mr. HOWE. What were the facts about it? What operated to delay their getting the print they wanted to consider?

Captain BRIAN. Nothing. After the Senate passed that bill the amendments had to be engrossed.

Mr. HOWE. By the—

Captain BRIAN. By the enrolling clerk of the Senate, and transmitted to the House.

Mr. HOWE. Messaged over?

Captain BRIAN. Messaged over—that the Senate had passed this bill with the following amendments. Then the House had to take action and order this copy printed with the numbered amendments. Then the Clerk of the House, Mr. Matlack, had to prepare that copy and send it to the Printing Office. It reached the Printing Office at 2.35.

Mr. HOWE. That is to say, all this had to be done before the conferees could get the print that they wanted?

Captain BRIAN. All this had to be done between the time the Senate passed the bill and the time the conferees could have a copy of it.

Mr. HOWE. I see—

Captain BRIAN. Let me complete the statement, if you please. This copy reached the Printing Office at 2.35. In the meantime we had anticipated and had gone to press with it, and we delivered the copies at 3.25.

Mr. HOWE. Yes. Now, gentlemen, is there anything to show when that passed the Senate?

Mr. MORGAN. It passed the Senate Thursday night.

Mr. HOWE. About when?

Mr. MORGAN. I do not remember just what time it passed, but I know it passed Thursday night before they adjourned.

Mr. HOWE. When did you get the engrossed copy?

Mr. MORGAN. The advanced engrossed copy came to the Office that night, and Mr. Platt wanted to know when he could receive the proof on it. Mr. Dierken told him he could receive the proof about 11 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Eleven o'clock at night?

Mr. MORGAN. About 11 o'clock at night.

Mr. YOUNG. That was June 28.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Platt telephoned down that the Senate was going to adjourn and to send the proof up next morning. We sent it to him next morning at 8.25.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Young said the engrossed amendments to this bill were received at 10 o'clock p. m. on Friday and returned at 11.30.

Mr. MORGAN. We sent out the proof at 8.25.

Captain BRIAN. He is talking about the proof of the bill. This was the proof that he sent to Mr. Platt at 8.25. That was the proof that was sent to him, and we have his copy here to show that he had not completed his work on it yet and that he added quite a number of inserts to it. That was the copy that was delivered to them at 11 o'clock which, as Mr. Horne said on Saturday last, they did not get until 11 o'clock the next day. I would like to show you that proof.

Mr. HOWE. Yes, I want to get clearly elucidated all the facts in this connection.

Mr. YOUNG. I am right glad that you are taking such an interest here, Mr. HOWE, because there are lots of things that the Government Printing Office does not get credit for.

Mr. HOWE. My function is to get the facts; that is all.

Captain BRIAN. Here is the proof that was sent to Mr. Platt at 8.25, about.

Mr. HOWE. In the morning?

Captain BRIAN. In the morning.

Mr. HOWE. Copy for which you received the night before?

Captain BRIAN. The night before.

Mr. HOWE. At about what time?

Captain BRIAN. About 11 o'clock.

Mr. MORGAN. It was received about 9 o'clock, and Mr. Platt was told he could get a proof on that bill at 11 o'clock. That bill was reported on Thursday, and we printed it in the afternoon so that they could have it at 8 o'clock to take it up and consider it.

Captain BRIAN. It was sent to Mr. Platt at 8 o'clock Friday morning—8.35 o'clock—and these [indicating] are the additions that he made to it.

Mr. HOWE. He made additions and returned it to you at 10 o'clock. There seem to be about twenty changes in it.

Captain BRIAN. There is another thing that I want to call attention to. There [indicating] you see there was a mistake made by some one in numbering those amendments. There we had to catch it up, and advance all his numbers from that point.

Mr. HOWE. All of which consumed time?

Captain BRIAN. All of which consumed time. In justice to Mr. Platt, I want to explain how this copy is prepared. Mr. Platt goes along and prepares these amendments from time to time and sends them to us, and gets proof of them. As the Senate proceeds, he puts on more amendments and gets the further proof, so as to be that much ahead. He had got this far ahead [indicating] when the Senate passed the bill, and after that he had to put the others on to complete his copy. He was anticipating. He does that right along.

Mr. YOUNG. We would like to say that there is nothing unusual in his sending that copy down in the evening and receiving the proof of it in the morning at all, because that is done right along.

Captain BRIAN. Here is the copy that afterwards came down from the House. It had to have all these amendments in the Senate [indicating]. If we had had to wait for this copy it would have been 6 or 7 o'clock before they would have received it.

Mr. HOWE. The fact is that your system of anticipation greatly facilitates the work of the House?

Captain BRIAN. It greatly facilitates the work, and often the Senate does not know how much time it takes after the time they pass a bill before the House gets ready to furnish the copy with the numbered amendments. Frequently when the House is not in session at night, and the Senate passes a bill, the Senate orders it printed with the numbered amendments. You can see how much time would have been consumed if we had had to wait for their copy, and had had to put all these in [indicating].

Mr. YOUNG. I have time and again prepared a bill with numbered amendments, and sent it into the proof room before the official copy was finished. We had it in our proof room before the official copy was finished by Mr. Matlack.

Captain BRIAN. You see the man making up this bill has the numbered amendments before him and this page 28 [indicating] perhaps would be page 40 on the bill with the numbered amendments, but his copy would read "on page 28, after line 25, insert." He has got to find where this is and insert it. You can not go right ahead and do it. You have got to learn how, first.

Mr. STILLINGS. That is where a man new on the job would get all mixed up. If he did not know just what he was doing he would get pretty thoroughly tied up.

Mr. YOUNG. How in the name of common sense would anybody or any printing establishment get out a 96-page job like that inside of sixty minutes without doing the work as we are—by anticipating it?

Mr. HOWE. It could not be done; that is perfectly apparent. How many amendments are there in that bill? I believe you told me the other day, but I do not remember.

Mr. YOUNG. Do you refer to the public buildings bill?

Mr. HOWE. No; the general deficiency bill.

Mr. YOUNG. The general deficiency bill has ninety-five amendments. When a man tackles a job like that one, he has got to keep his wits about him and keep at it. If he does not, he will fall down. There is not a man on the work that does not know exactly what is expected of him, and he does the work for all he is worth from the minute he starts until he gets through. If he does not make good in the first two or three hours on that kind of a job, he never goes on it again.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. Where is that legislative bill that went out so quickly—just to show the time consumed?

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Spottswood, what is your position in the Printing Office?

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. Assistant foreman of printing.

Mr. HOWE. Have you had any conversation with Mr. Platt about the delays in the handling of this general deficiency bill?

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. Only this, that Mr. Platt, before he left the city, called to say good-bye at the house, and while he was there I took occasion, you know, to ask him about this bill business, and he said that he regretted the criticism that had been made, since the work of the Printing Office had been expeditious, and that no more than a proper amount of time had been consumed by those who handled the measure in perfecting it.

Mr. HOWE. Do you know where Mr. Platt is?

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. He is at Woodmont, Conn.

Mr. HOWE. Is he expected back here to-morrow?

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. Yes; he did say that he would be back here after two or three days. I guess that is so.

Mr. HOWE. I ascertained at his apartments to-day that he would be back to-morrow——

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. He did say he would be back in two or three days.

Mr. HOWE. And I have sent a letter to his apartments and also to his office asking him to give me an opportunity to question him on Thursday. I will delay my departure for New York until that time in order to question Mr. Platt, whose expressions on this subject will be important.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. I recollect now that his wife said the same thing, that he expected to be back in two or three days, and that then they would go away for the summer.

Mr. HOWE. I may, to-morrow, question some of the employees of the Senate who have to do with the handling of these bills.

Mr. STILLINGS. If there are any of our employees that you want to question about these bills, or about any other matter in connection with this subject, they are at your disposal.

Mr. HOWE. I feel that the committee has covered the matter from the Printing Office standpoint pretty thoroughly. The only thing the inquiry now appears to lack is some first-hand testimony from attachés of the House and Senate.

Mr. STILLINGS. Of course this point comes to us, or comes to me, perhaps, more particularly, that although we feel pleased at having a clean record, so far as our efforts go, at the same time, if I had been well and on my feet, I think I should have made a special point of being at the Capitol myself, and to have had Captain Brian or Mr. Young with me, so that in the closing hours of the session I might have been right on the ground, and there might possibly have been some things that we could have helped along, and thus saved the Office being put in a bad light. If I am at the Office during another session of Congress, that will be the lesson taught me by this business here, that we owe it to Congress, and to the Office, to have every possible prevention for trouble adopted.

Mr. HOWE. I suppose if some one from your Office having authority to speak had been on the ground, it would have been a convenience to Congress in the matter of fixing the responsibility for these alleged delays?

Mr. STILLINGS. Unquestionably. Then, another thing is this: As far as we are concerned, I can say for the Office, as well as for myself, that if there are any shortcomings of the Office we want to know them, and should know them, in order to have them corrected. It is a matter of pride with us that this work is kept right up to the top notch.

Mr. HOWE. What is this bill you have handed me, Mr. Young—H. R. 14971?

Mr. YOUNG. That has nothing to do with this inquiry. It simply shows in what short time we do work with some of these jobs that look almost insurmountable when they come to the Office.

Mr. HOWE. This is a bill to revise, codify, and amend the laws relating to the judiciary. It consists of 399 pages. I notice that you

have a notation on here "Commenced after 12 p. m., when other work was finished, and delivered next morning." Do you mean that you set it up and delivered it?

Mr. YOUNG. We made it up, and set it up, every line. We made it up, read it, and printed it.

Mr. STILLINGS. How many copies?

Mr. YOUNG. Six hundred and forty-five.

Mr. MORGAN. Seven hundred and seventy-three, Mr. Young.

Mr. YOUNG. Seven hundred and seventy-three. Is that the new number?

Mr. MORGAN. Yes.

Mr. STILLINGS. I do not know of a commercial shop that could handle that job.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. There is an enrolled copy of the legislative bill [indicating].

Mr. YOUNG. I have one here that calls for a little bit more trouble—that is, in the nature of the make-up. If you will look at that bill, and let a printer examine it—

Mr. HOWE. This is the post-office appropriation bill?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes; that is the committee print.

Mr. HOWE. What is there significant about this?

Mr. YOUNG. The nature of the bill, the make-up of it, the different kinds of type used in it, the side notes in it, the size of the paper on which it is printed, etc.

Mr. STILLINGS. And side stitching, too. That is a harder bill to print. It requires more men and more care.

Mr. HOWE. I see there is a variety of type used in it.

Mr. STILLINGS. And there is more presswork in it.

Mr. HOWE. And it seems to be statistical. I see on here a notation, "Copy received after midnight; commenced about 1 o'clock and delivered 9 a. m."

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. That is a very creditable piece of work.

Mr. YOUNG. I want to show you one thing about that work that possibly you did not notice. We keep up the uniformity of paging as it was originally in the bill. Starting here, and running down to here, we made that page 2, and that page 2—this much, and that much, and that much [indicating] was in the original bill. That runs to page 4, and so on, showing the different changes. There is page 3 [indicating], page 3 continued, page 3 continued, page 3 continued, page 3 continued. All of this matter that you see on here constitutes what was on page 3 of the bill, with the notes and tables, showing what the changes were made for, and what the last year's law was, or whatever the thing may be. I do not know just what these tables are, as they are put in by the clerks of the committees.

The make-up on a job like that is something awful. These side notes have to be added later on. Certainly, you do not see them, because they are not there, but the make-up of that page has to be just the same as the one that is filled in. You notice that most of that was small type. All these were put in by the clerk—that tabular matter. He gives every page of that bill in probably two, three, and four pages, if you will notice. Whatever way it strikes, when you come to the end of that page you close off on it and then take up the next page at the top.

That is one of the meanest bills a man can handle. I have another one here that is a straightaway job. That job will bring the statement of Captain Brian on last Saturday and my statement a little closer together than they appeared to be at the time. I was asked how long a time it would take me to get out a hundred-page bill, and I said between three and a half and four hours, and Captain Brian said that he would gamble that he could do it in two hours.

Mr. HOWE. Provided it was so constituted that he could distribute it into small takes.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes. There is one that we got out in that time, but I can explain why it was done in such short time. The bill had been distributed, and the House document room ran out of copies. I received word from them to print, I forget how many copies—I think a couple of hundred, though. I told them the type was distributed and that it would entail an expense of probably \$300 to reprint that bill, and I did not think we were justified in doing it. I was told that the bill was under consideration and they had to have it. I called up Mr. Ricketts, the clerk of the Committee on Printing of the House, and I told him I did not think I had any authority to work under, to print that bill. He said, "Well, you go ahead and print it," so I got my authority from him direct. That was straightened out between the House document room and the House Committee on Printing. It got to be 1 o'clock in the morning before I got through wrestling with the subject of whether I would or would not print it. It was a case of my trying to save about \$300 for the Office, or of setting the bill up. We started it, as you see here, after 1 o'clock, and the force quit at 3.30, which shows that they went home at 3.30. That was from 1 o'clock to 3.30 o'clock, just two hours and a half.

Mr. HOWE. That is, a. m.?

Mr. YOUNG. A. m.; that is, in the morning. I went home at 1 o'clock. That morning when we decided to print it I stayed in the Office until 1 o'clock, and at 3.30 o'clock the force went home, and the bill was in the press room at that time.

Mr. HOWE. It was a case of setting up the type for the bill and printing it?

Mr. YOUNG. Every line of it, in two hours and a half. This is 180 pages.

Mr. HOWE. Well, you do very quick work on the Congressional Record, do you not?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Is that what you would call high-grade printing, Mr. Stillings?

Mr. STILLINGS. Of its class, yes. It is a well-printed publication of its class, away beyond the average commercial job.

Mr. HOWE. Does it not often happen that the Congressional Record exceeds 100 pages in volume?

Mr. STILLINGS. Here is one of June 28 with 121 pages. There is one of over 160 pages.

Mr. HOWE. What is your record on that, Captain Brian? What is the record of the Office?

Captain BRIAN. The record of the Office is that we get it out on time. That is all.

Mr. HOWE. I mean, probably there have been cases where a session of Congress has extended late into the night, and it has been necessary

for you to have the Congressional Record on the desks of Senators and Members on the following morning?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir; it is only a question of how soon the reporters can get the copy down there, Mr. Howe.

Mr. HOWE. That is what determines the time, is it?

Captain BRIAN. That is what determines the time.

Mr. YOUNG. I have a little bill here that you probably remember—

Captain BRIAN. There is a Record of 160 pages.

Mr. HOWE. That is all done on the machines, is it not?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. STILLINGS. Yes, sir; entirely.

Captain BRIAN. There is a nice little index to the Record, of 600 pages.

Mr. HOWE. But there is never any particular hurry about printing the index?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir; it simply goes to show just how the work is done; that is all.

Mr. HOWE. What were you saying, Mr. Young?

Mr. YOUNG. I said that I had a little bill here of which you have probably heard before. It is called a bill to regulate commerce. It is true it consists of only eight pages, but that bill was delivered to the Capitol in just fifty minutes.

Mr. HOWE. From the time you received it?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. MORGAN. From the time the copy left the Capitol.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes; this bill was delivered to the Capitol in fifty minutes after the copy left the Capitol.

Mr. STILLINGS. That allows for the time of the messenger service each way?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes; that would take off about twelve or fifteen minutes.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Spottswood hands me a copy of House Joint Resolution 188, containing the ordinary heading and title and nine lines, together with the space for signatures, which seems to have been set up, printed, and delivered in ten minutes after the receipt of the copy. What do you mean by delivered?

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. The parchment copy was delivered to the enrolling clerk.

Captain BRIAN. And it left the office in that time?

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. By the way, I spoke to Captain Brian and Mr. Young the other day, Mr. Stillings, about the advantage, if any, that might result from the installation of pneumatic-tube service between the Capitol and the Printing Office. What is your notion about that?

Mr. STILLINGS. I should think it would be a good thing if it were done on a broad enough scale, so as to cover the greatest amount of strain that is likely to be put on it, in sending stuff back and forth. I should think that would be, on the surface of it, a good thing, but it would require pretty careful looking into, because our messenger service is very thorough and very complete.

Captain BRIAN. It would depend a good deal on where the copy landed at the Capitol.

Mr. STILLINGS. It would mean that we would have to have messengers at both ends of the line to distribute. Still, as a casual proposi-

tion, without close examination, I should think it would be a good thing.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. What was the trouble when they started before? What was against it?

Captain BRIAN. It was impracticable at that time on account of the grade.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. The grade at the depot, there?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; they had to go down so deep the other side of the depot.

Mr. STILLINGS. How long ago was that, Captain?

Captain BRIAN. I will have to get Mr. Spottswood to tell you that.

Mr. STILLINGS. The reason I ask is that the pneumatic-tube service has developed wonderfully in the last few years. Long-distance work has become very successful.

Mr. HOWE. You spoke of the strain to which it might be subjected. How would that compare in the handling of your business with the strain that is imposed upon the pneumatic-tube service between the New York and Brooklyn post-offices?

Mr. STILLINGS. I should not think there would be any comparison. Ours would be small in comparison.

Mr. HOWE. That would be my idea.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. There is a little book there [indicating], the composition of which was done in less than three days. We could have done it, you know, in a great deal less time if we could have had the copy, but we printed it in one night, and that was sewed by hand and delivered next morning—300 copies. It went to press in the afternoon and was printed in one night.

Mr. HOWE. A book of 1,466 pages, hearings before the subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, on the sundry civil bill.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. Yes; just to show you the way we do work there.

Mr. YOUNG. I would like to say that while the force there is called the night bill force, that bill force does not only do bill work.

Mr. HOWE. Oh, it does other work?

Mr. YOUNG. They do all the work that comes down there.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. This [indicating] came in one day and was delivered the next day, and also this [indicating]. That is all in addition to our regular work. These are just side issues, in addition to hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of pages of other matter in the way of bills and documents.

Mr. HOWE. This is done by the night bill force?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. This is entitled "Hearings before the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House."

Mr. YOUNG. Here is a job in which there is considerable machine work.

Mr. HOWE. Hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary of the House. You say this is machine work?

Mr. YOUNG. Part of it.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. There is a book that was begun on Monday and finished Wednesday.

Mr. HOWE. Hearings before a special committee appointed by the Speaker to make a full investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. All this is in addition to the other matter that is running there all the time.

Mr. HOWE. There are 1,710 pages.

Mr. SPOTTSWOOD. That is just one little book that we got out there, you know, without saying much about it. It is an everyday occurrence. That is just to show you the way we do the work.

Mr. YOUNG. To give you an idea of what is sent down to the press room on some nights, I will say that on one night when we had a very large bill and document night we sent down 235 forms to press.

Mr. STILLINGS. Of eight pages each.

Mr. YOUNG. Eight pages, as far as the bills were concerned, and 16 pages so far as the document work was concerned.

Mr. STILLINGS. I would suggest, for the purpose of comparison, that the state printer of New York and the state printer of Massachusetts would be good critics of the service that the Government Printing Office is rendering, because they have the same strenuousness on a smaller scale; and I would welcome any examination of our records of the service here.

Mr. HOWE. I imagine it will not be necessary to go into the matter as deeply as that.

Mr. YOUNG. Would you like to see three or four bills here that we have handled the proof on, to see how quickly we get the proof out?

Mr. HOWE. Just state the facts briefly.

Mr. YOUNG. There is a report of House bill 19844. The copy for that was received at 2.30, and the proof was delivered to Mr. Courts at 4.30—178 pages. There is the legislative appropriation bill, copy for which was received at 12.30 and the proof delivered to Mr. Courts at 1.45. That consists of 170 pages. Here is the District of Columbia appropriation bill. The copy was received at 1 o'clock and the proof was delivered to Mr. Courts at 2.20. That consists of 96 pages. Here is the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, of which the proof was delivered to Mr. Courts in 40 minutes—52 pages.

The Committee (at 5.15 o'clock p. m.) adjourned, subject to notice.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING, UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., July 11, 1906—3 o'clock p. m.

Met pursuant to notice.

Present: Mr. Albert H. Howe, representing the Committee on Printing.

Also Captain Brian, Mr. Young, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ansel Wold, Mr. W. A. Smith, and others.

**STATEMENT OF ANSEL WOLD, BILL INDEX CLERK, OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.**

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Wold, will you state your full name and the position you occupy?

Mr. WOLD. My full name is Ansel Wold, and my position is that of bill index clerk of the Senate. I keep the history of all bills, as taken from the Senate Journal.

Mr. HOWE. Will you describe to the committee the nature of your duties?

Mr. WOLD. I keep track of all the bills that are introduced in the Senate and all bills that come over from the House, and keep a detailed statement of every action taken on any bill in the Senate.

Mr. HOWE. Either Senate or House bills?

Mr. WOLD. House bills that come over to the Senate for action.

Mr. HOWE. Are your records in such shape that you could indicate the time that bills are received from the House, for instance, or the time when they were introduced and referred to your desk in the Senate?

Mr. WOLD. Yes; on the day, I can tell. I can specify the day.

Mr. HOWE. You do not keep a permanent record of the time?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir; but not by clockwork, you understand.

Mr. HOWE. But you make notations, do you?

Mr. WOLD. I have a card system. I make an entry of the page of the Journal on which the Senate takes any action on a bill, and by referring to that page the date is ascertained. This is printed at the close of the session, and put in with the Journal proceedings.

Mr. HOWE. Then you ought to be in a position to give the history, as it were, of almost any bill under consideration?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. A criticism was made in the Senate as to delays in the handling of bills during the latter days of the session, and that criticism seemed to center about two bills—one the general deficiency bill, and the other the so-called public buildings bill. The Senator who made the criticism in alluding to the general deficiency bill said that the committee on conference had to wait a good while for a print of that bill, and that finally they had to take an old print and work on that. Now, the testimony that has been gathered thus far would indicate that the general deficiency bill passed the Senate on the evening of Thursday, the 28th of June. That testimony also would show that the engrossed copy of that bill, coming, I presume, from Mr. Platt's desk, reached the Printing Office that night, and an inquiry was made by Mr. Platt as to when he could receive the proof on it. He was told that he could have the proof about 11 o'clock. Now, right in this connection, and before I get to the point, it does not appear at just what time that night you got that engrossed copy, Captain Brian. Can you tell that, exactly or approximately?

Captain BRIAN. We received the engrossed copy when, Mr. Morgan; do you know?

Mr. MORGAN. Wait a minute; I have a note of it. The engrossed copy?

Mr. YOUNG. The engrossed amendments of the deficiency bill.

Mr. HOWE. That is what I mean.

Mr. MORGAN. They were received at the Office between 8 and 9 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Between 8 and 9 o'clock; and Mr. Platt asked when he could receive the proof, and he was told about 11 o'clock. He then telephoned down that the Senate was about to adjourn and that he, Mr. Platt, was going home, and that he would be satisfied to have the proof the next morning. The proof was accordingly sent to him the next morning at 8.25. How does that correspond with your information?

Mr. WOLD. Well, now, that 8 and 9 o'clock reference that is made

is true. In the case of an appropriation bill, being reported as printed, in italics—the reported bill—Mr. Platt I know has usually prepared all the reported amendments that are pending in the bill, thinking that they will pass without any question, and then if there are any amendments inserted on the floor of the Senate he has to add them to the proof.

Mr. HOWE. And that operates to delay his work, of course?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, that operates to delay his work. The deficiency bill was amended on the floor of the Senate, and I think you will find, or I think the Printing Office officials will find, that they did not get the complete copy of the amendments on the deficiency bill until 1 or half past 1 o'clock that night.

Mr. HOWE. How is that, Mr. Morgan?

Mr. MORGAN. If my memory serves me right, we had the reported copy of that bill in the afternoon. They said they wanted to consider the bill at 8 o'clock, so Mr. Platt could not commence to work on his amendments until quite late. Immediately after he received the reported copy he started to work on it, and sent his copy to the Office. There were about four pages of inserts—amendments put in on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. HOWE. And that was the matter you got about 8 o'clock.

Mr. MORGAN. That was the matter that we received at 10 o'clock on the next morning.

Mr. HOWE. What was the matter that you received at 8 o'clock that night?

Mr. MORGAN. The amendments that were reported in the bill, as reported to the Senate; but there were amendments put in the bill that passed the Senate that were not reported in the bill, you see.

Captain BRIAN. May I say that that was the matter that I showed you yesterday, Mr. Howe, with those amendments in it. I have the copy here now, if you wish to see it.

Mr. HOWE. I recall the copy you showed me. The point I want to get out is, what concern did the Printing Office have in this copy before it actually passed? My information is, in other words, that the bill passed the Senate on the evening of Thursday, and, as I understand your testimony, you received the engrossed copy on the night of Thursday about 8 o'clock.

Captain BRIAN. So far as Mr. Platt had it ready.

Mr. HOWE. So far as Mr. Platt had it ready?

Mr. MORGAN. That is the point.

Captain BRIAN. So far as he was able to ascertain what the amendments were.

Mr. HOWE. What was the obstruction to his knowing exactly what the amendments were after the bill had passed?

Mr. WOLD. Excuse me, but the general deficiency bill did not pass the Senate until Thursday night about a quarter of 10, or within the next half hour thereafter. I can not say positively. The copy that the Government Printing Office received at 8 o'clock consisted of the amendments that Mr. Platt prepared from the reported print copy that came up at 8 o'clock. And, by the way, I might as well add that I got the reported print of the deficiency bill that evening. They took a recess until 8 o'clock, and at 8 o'clock the bills were on the desks of Senators.

Mr. HOWE. Then the stuff that Mr. Platt sent down about 8 o'clock was in the nature of an anticipation of what the Senate would do?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Why should he ask when he could get it back?

Mr. WOLD. I will tell you; because the bill was going to pass that night, and he wanted the proof to get back so that he could make his additions, in the nature of amendments made on the floor, and send the proof down that night and have it next morning to read.

Mr. HOWE. Simply to facilitate his work?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. The delay, then, that the conferees experienced in getting the print that they wanted to work on was simply due to the fact that the bill did not finally pass until about 10 o'clock that night, and that you did not have the copy from which to print the particular print that the conferees wanted until the next morning about 8 o'clock or thereabouts?

Captain BRIAN. No, Mr. Howe. We have insisted that that is not the print that the conferees wanted. That was the print that was to go to the House before the conferees were appointed at all, or before it was known that there were going to be any conferees.

Mr. WOLD. Mr. Howe—

Mr. HOWE. Proceed, Mr. Wold.

Mr. WOLD. The bill passed the Senate about 10 o'clock Thursday night.

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. WOLD. The amendments are to be prepared by Mr. Platt on the engrossed copy and returned to the House officially, showing the amendments of the Senate. Over there the House always makes it a practice to order the bill printed with the Senate amendments numbered.

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. WOLD. They did not have time that night, or rather Mr. Platt did not. Mr. Platt, of course, at 10 o'clock that night could not transmit to the House the deficiency amendments for the simple reason that they were not on engrossed print. There was not an engrossed print of it. There was a man who came over to the Senate and inquired if he could not get it, but there were a great many amendments, and Mr. Platt was preparing them to send them to the Government Printing Office. This was about 12 o'clock Thursday night. Now, I am not positive, I can not tell exactly, but I think the Senate adjourned at 11 or quarter of 11, or somewhere about there, and at 12 o'clock at night he had his deficiency prepared and sent it to the Government Printing Office—the amendments in full. Now, the object would be for the House clerks to get hold of those amendments in order to print the bill with the Senate amendments numbered, and they could not do that at 12 o'clock at night.

Mr. HOWE. That is the print the conferees wanted?

Mr. WOLD. That is the print the conferees wanted—the one with the Senate amendments numbered.

Captain BRIAN. Wait a minute; this copy that Mr. Platt was preparing was not the copy that the conferees wanted.

Mr. WOLD. But the copy I am referring to is the one that the House should have—the one with the Senate amendments numbered.

Mr. HOWE. That is the one the conferees wanted?

Mr. WOLD. That is the one the conferees wanted.

Mr. HOWE. And the delay in getting that provoked this criticism?

Mr. WOLD. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Now, I want to find out whether there was any delay, any unnecessary delay, in furnishing that particular copy. Let us get right down to it. The engrossed copy from the Senate, with these amendments, reached the Printing Office at what time, did you say?

Mr. WOLD. I can not tell. That is for Mr. Platt to tell, for sure. Of course, I was with him there, or standing there, and I noticed it; and I know it was 12 o'clock at night when he was talking about it, and I should judge that the Printing Office would receive the amendments in full from Mr. Platt about 12.30 or 1 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. It appears that the Printing Office returned it the next morning at 8.25. Is that right?

Mr. MORGAN. That is right. That is the first print, the first proof, and the amendments that were passed on the floor of the Senate, that copy was not furnished the Office until 10 o'clock the next morning, Friday morning.

Mr. WOLD. The copy that—

Mr. YOUNG. The copy that was pasted on the proof sheet.

Mr. WOLD. I do not know anything about that. That is for Mr. Platt to testify to.

Mr. HOWE. I understand you did not get that copy until 10 o'clock the next morning?

Mr. MORGAN. We did not get that copy until 10 o'clock the next morning.

Mr. HOWE. And that was the matter you had to avail yourselves of in supplying the conferees with the particular print they were impatient to receive?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Well, I must say that I am experiencing a great deal of difficulty in finding out about that.

Captain BRIAN. If the reporter will stop for one moment, I think we can make that plain to you, Mr. Howe.

Mr. HOWE. Have you the engrossed amendments on this?

Mr. YOUNG. No; I have not.

Captain BRIAN. I have the engrossed amendments.

Mr. W. A. SMITH. What number was that?

Mr. WOLD. That was No. 20403.

Mr. YOUNG. I will illustrate this, if you wish me to, Mr. Howe.

Mr. HOWE. I wish you would.

Mr. YOUNG. I will illustrate it with this bill [indicating]. It is immaterial what bill we have.

Mr. HOWE. Yes; any bill will do. I simply want to find out what print it was they wanted.

Mr. YOUNG. Here is a bill, for instance, as it is reported in the House. That is passed by the House and then printed as an engrossed bill. This is the engrossed bill, and that goes to the Senate. The Senate has it reprinted and referred to the committee. Then the committee reports that bill. When that bill is reported, the amendments—the numbered amendments—are made up by Mr. Platt.

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG. That is this print [indicating].

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG. Now, Mr. Platt goes to work and he takes the reported bill, for instance, and he takes each one of these items [indicating], and uses them as his tentative copy, does he not?

Mr. WOLD. So I understand. I think that is his practice.

Mr. YOUNG. He takes that copy, and he gets a proof of it. Then, when the Senate finally passes the bill, he inserts whatever new amendments they have made.

Mr. HOWE. Into the proof?

Mr. YOUNG. Into the proof. He strikes out whatever has not been passed by the Senate. Then they are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6—do you see?

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG. Like this [indicating]. That is then printed, and is considered as the numbered amendments of the Senate to the bill. They put a resolving clause over it, saying that it has passed the Senate with numbered amendments. It goes to the House and the House then has it printed for the use of the conferees, with the amendments of the Senate numbered in the original bill, and there it is. That is the bill the conferees were waiting for.

Mr. HOWE. Now, when did the copy for the numbered-amendments print reach the Printing Office?

Mr. YOUNG. It reached there at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Captain BRIAN. Oh, no; wait a moment.

Mr. YOUNG. The final copy.

Captain BRIAN. No; you are wrong.

Mr. YOUNG. All right; I will retract that, then.

Mr. WOLD. I will clear that up for you gentlemen, I think, in a very short statement here.

Mr. HOWE. I do not want to get away from this question because I have been trying for two days to get it straightened out.

Mr. MORGAN. I can tell you the minute the official copy of this bill reached the Office.

Mr. HOWE. I wish you would.

Mr. MORGAN. It reached there at 2.35 in the afternoon.

Mr. HOWE. Of what day?

Mr. MORGAN. Friday afternoon. That is, the official copy for the numbered amendments, printed as you have it here before you.

Mr. YOUNG. I thought you were talking about the engrossed amendments of the Senate. I see.

Mr. WOLD. That is right.

Mr. HOWE. That is the bill that you returned at 3.25 on that day?

Mr. MORGAN. 3.25 on that day.

Mr. HOWE. Then it was not possible for the conferees to have that print before 3.25 of that day?

Mr. MORGAN. No. If we had waited for the official copy it would not have been possible for them to have had it for an hour or two later.

Mr. HOWE. Now, it remains to be shown whether any undue amount of time was consumed in getting that copy to the Printing Office. How was it with regard to the measure as you had it in the Senate, Mr. Wold?

Mr. WOLD. The bill passed the Senate, and the engrossed amendments were received by Mr. Platt next morning, I suppose, as usual, and he could not transmit that until the House convened on Friday. Then he transmits it to the House with his official amendments, and then, I suppose, it is up to the clerks of the House of Representatives to prepare this copy.

Mr. YOUNG. That is it—Mr. Matlack.

Mr. WOLD. And they could not prepare it in any way in the world until it was received in the House unless they were in possession of an advanced copy. It would be an impossibility.

Mr. HOWE. Was it messaged over to the House Friday morning?

Mr. WOLD. I think it was messaged over to the House Friday. I can not tell you anything about that positively, but I think it was. If the bill passed Thursday evening it was messaged over to the House about Friday noon. If the House convened at 11 o'clock I have no doubt it was messaged over there a few minutes after 11, officially.

Mr. HOWE. We will get the record right here before us, and find out when it was messaged over.

Mr. WOLD. Friday, June 29, I think you will find it, at 11.15.

Mr. HOWE. Captain Brian, I see you have been looking at the Record. What do you find?

Captain BRIAN. I find the House convened on Friday, June 29, at 11 o'clock. That is shown on page 9930 of the Record. I find on page 9958 that a message was received from the Senate announcing the passage of that bill.

Mr. HOWE. But there is not anything here to indicate the time, is there?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Judging from this record the general deficiency bill certainly was not messaged over to the House on the morning of that day.

Mr. WOLD. How are you going to judge by the Record?

Mr. HOWE. Simply because the House met at 11 o'clock, and here are 27 pages of proceedings and debate, and that amount of debate could not have been certainly—

Mr. WOLD. You are not under the impression, are you, that everything that transpires is put in in its regular order as the things happen?

Mr. HOWE. Why, when your messenger from the Senate goes to the House he is recognized immediately, is he not?

Mr. WOLD. I suppose so; I don't know. I suppose he is, but that does not necessarily say that the proceedings will go into the Congressional Record the first thing.

Mr. HOWE. If the messenger appeared in the middle of the remarks of Mr. So and So, it would show. Now, Mr. Wold, you will observe in the proceedings there that one message went over early in the proceedings, but the general deficiency bill was not among the measures that were messaged over at that time. This was a second message.

Mr. WOLD. How about this? [Indicating in Congressional Record.] These are only bills passed. That does not consume any time. The passing of a bill does not consume any time.

Mr. HOWE. No; but there was considerable debate.

Mr. WOLD. This is all insert.

Mr. HOWE. Yes; but there was considerable debate, and the House

did not meet until 11 o'clock, so that it is quite conceivable that it might have been after 12 o'clock before it was messaged over.

Mr. WOLD. Here are ten pages of printed matter, inserted.

Mr. HOWE. I realize that, but on the other hand there were nineteen bills passed, some of them involving considerable debate; and I repeat that it is probably true that it could not have reached the House before the afternoon of that day.

Mr. WOLD. Well, of course that is something that I have nothing to do with. Mr. Platt is the man who will answer as to that.

Mr. HOWE. I understand, of course.

Mr. WOLD. But I was just speaking from memory, you understand, of what I thought Mr. Platt was doing at the time.

Mr. HOWE. Well, it is simply important as showing where the time was consumed. I am not asserting, of course, that there was any undue delay anywhere.

Mr. WOLD. No.

Mr. HOWE. But that it is probable it did not get to the House until after 12 o'clock.

Mr. WOLD. Well, I would not know anything about when it got there. That is for Mr. Platt.

Mr. HOWE. According to the testimony of the Printing Office they did not receive the copy until 2.35, and they returned it at 3.25.

Mr. YOUNG. I think Mr. Matlack did pretty good work at that.

Mr. WOLD. I received four advance copies from Mr. Dierken at 3.25. He called me up on the phone and asked, as a favor, that I carry them into the conference committee right away, which I did at 3.25; and I think that ten minutes afterwards additional copies came up. I don't know how many.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes; we gave them enough to work on.

Mr. HOWE. Well, we have got about all we want in regard to the general deficiency bill. Of course I will try to question Mr. Platt further about it. Now, as to the public buildings bill.

Captain BRIAN. Before you get away from the general deficiency bill may I ask Mr. Wold one question?

Mr. HOWE. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Wold, we have here the copy of that bill for the numbered amendments, sent from the House, and I want to ask you what your opinion is as to the length of time it would take the clerks to prepare that bill as this is prepared [indicating].

Mr. WOLD. Well, I should think—that is something that I have never tackled; I have never been up against a proposition like that myself—but if a man has an appropriation bill on hand he wants to try to be accurate, and he is going to take some time. It ought to take a couple of hours, in my estimation.

Captain BRIAN. Not less than two hours, on a bill of this size, and more likely three hours?

Mr. WOLD. Yes; I have never done any of that work, but of course I have seen lots of it done.

Captain BRIAN. If this bill had been turned over to the clerk at 11 o'clock, at the hour the House met, it could not possibly have been done before 2 o'clock.

Mr. YOUNG. Unquestionably an appropriation bill just a little bit larger than that takes three or four hours.

Mr. WOLD. So far as my saying that the deficiency bill went over at 11 o'clock is concerned, I do not know anything about it. I did not have anything to do with it. I only heard. Of course, being the last days of the session, I am keeping a history of the bills, you know, the appropriation bills that are to be acted upon, and I naturally inquired, but I think you will find that Mr. Platt sent over one of the appropriation bills at 11 o'clock to the House, officially, in the first message, although I am not sure.

Mr. MORGAN. I think so, too. That is probably the engrossed amendments on the public buildings bill.

Mr. HOWE. We are talking now particularly about the general deficiency bill, and I think it is safe to assume that it did not reach the House until afternoon. Now, to get back to the public buildings bill. That bill went over in the first message on Friday, did it not?

Mr. WOLD. Well, it passed Thursday night with amendments, and I don't know when Mr. Platt sent it over. I can not tell you anything about that. I know that my records show that it passed Thursday evening.

Mr. HOWE. Have you the exact time there?

Mr. WOLD. I have the card here showing the page of the Journal, and the page of the Journal will give the date and I can tell. This number here includes that date.

Mr. HOWE. On page 9933 of the Record of June 29, which is Friday, it appears that the public buildings bill was messaged over to the House in the first message. Do your records show when it came back from the House disagreed to?

Mr. WOLD. I would have to have the Journal pages down here, and I haven't them with me. I have an entry "Senate insists and agrees to conference."

Mr. HOWE. That is on Friday?

Mr. WOLD. That is on Friday; yes.

Mr. HOWE. Will you get the Journal pages?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

(Mr. Wold left the room and subsequently returned with the pages referred to.)

Mr. WOLD. Here it is. Page 688 of the Senate Journal shows that there was a message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Browning, its Chief Clerk, and that the House of Representatives has disagreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill 20410. It gives the title of the bill. It asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and has appointed Mr. Barchfeld, Mr. Burleigh, and Mr. Bankhead, managers at the same on its part.

Then on the same page it says, "The Vice-President laid before the Senate a message this day received from the House of Representatives announcing its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate to the bill 20410," and it gives the title, and asking a conference with the Senate thereon. "On motion of Mr. Scott, Resolved that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the said bill disagreed to by the House of Representatives, and agree to the conference asked for by the House on the disagreeing notes of the two Houses thereon." It was ordered that the conferees on the part of the Senate be appointed by the Vice-President, and the Vice-President appointed Mr. Scott, Mr. Warren, and Mr. Culberson.

Mr. HOWE. What day was that?

Mr. WOLD. June 29.

Mr. HOWE. That was Friday. It then went to conference?

Mr. WOLD. It went to conference.

Mr. HOWE. Is there anything in your record to show when the conference report was submitted in the Senate?

Mr. WOLD. On page 699, under date of June 29, in the evening session, it appears that Mr. Scott presented the conference report, in part, and further insisted upon certain amendments which were in disagreement, and asked a further conference.

Mr. HOWE. Were there any more conference reports, or did those two comprise them all?

Mr. WOLD. Of course the second conference report was presented. The conference report that was first presented, the one I have just mentioned, was not a full report.

Mr. HOWE. It was just a fractional report?

Mr. WOLD. Just a fractional report.

Mr. HOWE. How about the second conference report? Was there not a second report?

Mr. WOLD. On page 707, under date of June 30, the second one was presented.

Mr. HOWE. It is safe to assume, is it not, that conference reports go into both Houses about the same time, relatively speaking?

Mr. WOLD. No.

Mr. HOWE. No?

Mr. WOLD. A conference report is handled in this way. The body that grants the conference presents its conference report first. Then that body notifies the other branch of Congress that it has agreed to it, and then the other branch presents its report after the official notification has been presented.

Mr. HOWE. But it generally follows that there is not much of a lapse of time between the submission of the two?

Mr. WOLD. Oh, no; not very much.

Mr. HOWE. Not so much as a day?

Mr. WOLD. Well, that depends upon what kind of a bill it is. It is never a day with an appropriation bill.

Mr. HOWE. What I am trying to get at is, was there any undue lapse of time between the moment when the conferees agreed among themselves and the time of the submission of the report to either or both Houses, and what would probably cause the consumption of that time?

Mr. WOLD. I do not know anything about that. All I have to deal with is the Senate Journal. The clerk to the committee of conference prepares the conference report, and the time that he takes to prepare it and the time that any Senator or Member presents it I would not know.

Mr. HOWE. Actually, how much time was there? Have you anything to show how much time there was between the moment the conferees agreed and the time the report was submitted?

Mr. WOLD. Why, all I know about it is that the report was submitted on June 30, but from my own knowledge, from being in the Senate Chamber, I can give you the exact time. It was about 1.30 to a quarter of 2, on Saturday, June 30.

Mr. HOWE. That is the time it was submitted?

Mr. WOLD. That is the time it was submitted to the Senate. The message from the House, I think, came over about 1.15; I am not positive, only from being present in the Senate.

Mr. HOWE. Now let us try to get at it in another way. Is there anything to show when the bill went to conference?

Mr. WOLD. Which bill?

Mr. HOWE. The public buildings bill.

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask Mr. Wold if, after that, the Senate did not have to notify the House that they had agreed?

Mr. WOLD. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. That was after 1.55.

Mr. HOWE. That took a few minutes, of course. Now, Mr. Reporter, will you read my previous question?

(The reporter read as follows:)

Mr. HOWE. Now, let us try to get at it in another way. Is there anything to show when the bill went to conference?

Mr. WOLD. Which bill?

Mr. HOWE. The public buildings bill.

Mr. WOLD. Yes.

Mr. WOLD. That shows, as I was reading to you awhile ago, on page 688, that the Senate insisted and agreed to a conference on June 29. That throws it into conference.

Mr. HOWE. There is nothing there that would indicate the time of day. Could you approximate it?

Mr. WOLD. I would not have any idea about that. You would have to ask Mr. Platt. I imagine from the entries on the Senate Journal that it would be somewhere right after the convening of the Senate on Friday, June 29, between 12 and 1 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. And the conferees did not report until the next day after 1?

Mr. WOLD. The conferees reported that night about 10 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Then what is this mention of—

Mr. WOLD. That is, upon a partial agreement.

Mr. HOWE. There seems to be some confusion in fixing the time of the submission of these reports, growing out of the fact that the Senate adjourned Friday night—

Mr. WOLD. Immediately after the adoption of the public buildings conference report.

Mr. HOWE (continuing). To resume next morning, while the House simply recessed, and the House proceedings of Saturday morning were made to appear in the Record as being the proceedings of Friday.

Mr. WOLD. I would not know anything about that. Probably they took a recess.

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mr. WOLD. The Senate adjourned. Wait a minute; the Senate adjourned at 11 o'clock and 45 minutes on Friday, June 29. That is in the Senate Journal on page 701.

Mr. HOWE. While the House simply took a recess.

Mr. WOLD. Well, I would not know anything about that unless I looked at the Record.

Mr. HOWE. That is the fact; the House took a recess. Do you recognize any delay, Mr. Wold, in the handling of this public buildings bill?

Mr. WOLD. Well, I can not say that I do, inasmuch as I do not know anything of the particulars about it.

Mr. HOWE. There seems to have been a good deal of time between the agreement of the conferees and the submission of the report, and I thought possibly you might have some theory as to why that amount of time was consumed.

Mr. WOLD. I do not know when the conferees agreed. I do know that the conference report was presented and agreed to in the Senate about, as I said before, between 1.30 and 1.45.

Mr. HOWE. On Saturday.

Mr. WOLD. On Saturday.

Mr. HOWE. Do your duties carry you over to the House?

Mr. WOLD. No; not officially.

Mr. HOWE. You are not cognizant of any proceedings that took place over there, then?

Mr. WOLD. Nothing officially; no.

Mr. HOWE. The correct procedure in this case would have been that the conference report should first be submitted in the Senate, or in the House?

Mr. WOLD. Which conference report?

Mr. HOWE. The conference report on the public buildings bill.

Mr. WOLD. There were two conferences. The first one was presented in the Senate. The House disagrees, and the Senate insists and agrees to the conference, which means granting the conference. The Senate presents its conference report first.

Mr. HOWE. How was it in the other case?

Mr. WOLD. In the second conference the House conferees were supposed to present—or rather, they are not supposed, they ought to submit their conference report first, under the rules of practice between the two Houses.

Mr. HOWE. There was not any confusion about that, so far as you know?

Mr. WOLD. Not that I know of, that I can say positively. The conference reports are confusing, especially where there are two or three conferences.

Mr. HOWE. You say they are confusing?

Mr. WOLD. At times; yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Actually, was there any confusion in this case?

Mr. WOLD. I do not know of any, because all I have is the Senate Journal to go by to make my entries. There may have been some delay in it, but I do not know where it was.

Mr. HOWE. You say that your duties do not officially carry you over to the House?

Mr. WOLD. No, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Did you have any occasion on that day to go over to the House on the business of the Senate?

Mr. WOLD. I never went over on business of the Senate. I just went over from personal interest, to find out how the public buildings bill was getting on, after the Senate had acted upon the conference report.

Mr. HOWE. That was after 1.55, or whatever the time was?

Mr. WOLD. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. What did you discover over there?

Mr. WOLD. I just went over into Mr. McKenney's office, and I was talking to him about the public buildings bill. He had not prepared the copy to be put on parchment yet. He had not received the conference report.

Mr. HOWE. He had not received it?

Mr. WOLD. He had not received the papers in the case.

Mr. HOWE. Notwithstanding the fact that the House was required, under the rules of practice, to submit the report first?

Mr. WOLD. Well, they had submitted it. At this time it had passed the House and Senate; and it had just passed the Senate, and I went over to see Mr. McKenney to find out about how long it was going to take him to enroll it.

Mr. HOWE. What did he say about the length of time it was going to take him to enroll it?

Mr. WOLD. This was 2.15, and he says: "It will take me all the way from an hour to an hour and a half to enroll it," so that I should think he would have the copy ready for the Government Printing Office to put on parchment about 4 o'clock or later. It depends upon whether or not it took him an hour and a half; but he surely could not have gotten it there before 4 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. I am getting a little away from the point. I was trying to ascertain whether there was any delay in the action of the House in submitting the second conference report which you say they were required under the practice of the two bodies to make first.

Mr. WOLD. Well, I could not say about that. The House must have acted on that conference report about 1 o'clock, or close to that time, and they convened at 11 o'clock. Probably the report was not prepared at that time.

Mr. HOWE. Was any explanation made as to why it was not prepared?

Mr. WOLD. I did not talk with anybody about it.

Mr. HOWE. Let us get back to this question of confusion in the procedure. Did you say there was, in your judgment, confusion in this case as to which house should first submit the report?

Mr. WOLD. Well, there sometimes is a question. Some Senators and some Members not being entirely familiar with the procedure, sometimes they question the mode of procedure.

Mr. HOWE. Was there any question in this regard?

Mr. WOLD. There was none asked me.

Mr. HOWE. Did you hear any question raised about it at all?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, I did.

Mr. HOWE. Do you care to state who raised the question?

Mr. WOLD. Why, I don't know of anybody in particular raising the question, except that I heard some one remark in the office—whether it was one of the clerks or a newspaper reporter I do not know—that there was some question as to just where the conference report should be presented first.

Mr. HOWE. That probably accounted for some of the delay, did it not?

Mr. WOLD. It probably would, where there was a question like that raised.

Mr. HOWE. Who would naturally decide a question of that kind? Who would be the natural man to state the procedure to anyone interested to know it?

Mr. WOLD. In the Senate they always go to Mr. McDonald, the chief clerk, and ask him any questions as to parliamentary procedure.

Mr. HOWE. Was any inquiry made of him so far as you know?

Mr. WOLD. I do not know.

Mr. HOWE. Who, in the House, would be the party to decide such a question?

Mr. WOLD. I imagine that Mr. Hinds would be the man.

Mr. HOWE. Then, if there was a question, one or the other of those gentlemen must have been questioned and must have decided it?

Mr. WOLD. Probably; if there was any question about it.

Mr. HOWE. But I thought you said there was a question about it.

Mr. WOLD. Only what I heard. I do not know about it officially.

Mr. HOWE. Would you care to state what you heard?

Mr. WOLD. Well, all I know is that there was a remark made that they did not know just where the conference report ought to have been presented; but of course it should be presented in the House first.

Mr. HOWE. Who were the parties to this conversation?

Mr. WOLD. I can not say that positively, because I do not know. I could not say that positively, as I only heard the remark.

Mr. HOWE. How did they finally get enlightenment?

Mr. WOLD. I don't know. You have got me there. I can not answer that. I know the night before I suggested—I don't know the man's name; he is on the floor of the House—I suggested to him when he came over to inquire about the public buildings bill to remember that the conference report was to be presented in the House first.

Mr. HOWE. Now, Mr. Wold, this committee is trying to get at the facts in this matter. They are required to get at the facts by an order of the Senate, and if you have any information on this subject I should judge it would be quite proper for you to furnish it.

Mr. WOLD. Mr. Howe, I would not want to give any information that I do not know positively about the facts.

Mr. HOWE. No; of course not.

Mr. WOLD. But, in my personal opinion, I suppose if the conference report on the public buildings bill could have been prepared and presented in the House of Representatives, or had been finished and presented in the House of Representatives when they convened at their 11 o'clock session on Saturday—I suppose the Government Printing Office would have got the copy for that bill just that much earlier.

Mr. HOWE. Actually, from your information, was there any confusion over there? Did they believe that the report ought to be first submitted in the Senate? Were they in doubt about their rights in the matter?

Mr. WOLD. Nobody ever asked me about that at all, and I could not say. Nobody ever came to me and asked me about it. Probably Mr. Platt could give you more information on that very point.

Mr. HOWE. We hope to hear from Mr. Platt on that subject.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask a question, Mr. Howe.

Mr. HOWE. Certainly.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Wold I understood you to say that you went over to Mr. McKenney's room about 2.15, and that he had not commenced to prepare the copy for the enrolled bill.

Mr. WOLD. That is right.

Captain BRIAN. Did Mr. McKenney say that he was busy on other bills at that time?

Mr. WOLD. He had not received the papers in the case.

Captain BRIAN. But did he say anything about being too busy to prepare it when it came?

Mr. WOLD. He was sitting there waiting for it, and had sent his messenger after it.

Captain BRIAN. He had nothing else to do?

Mr. WOLD. Nothing else to do.

Mr. HOWE. Is it not unusual at that stage of the proceedings for the enrolling clerk to be idle?

Mr. WOLD. Why, he might have had something to do, but he was waiting for an appropriation bill.

Captain BRIAN. Do you know how long after that time it was before the copy reached Mr. McKenney so that he could go to work on it?

Mr. WOLD. It reached him while I was in there.

Captain BRIAN. Did he go to work on it or turn it over to an assistant?

Mr. WOLD. He went to work on it immediately.

Captain BRIAN. Did he have assistants?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. I believe you said that in your opinion it would take from an hour and a half to two hours to prepare that bill, which would bring it up in the neighborhood of 4 o'clock.

Mr. WOLD. I think so, and he said so himself.

Captain BRIAN. Yes; that would take it up to about 4 o'clock. Did Mr. McKenney say how long it would take him to read the proof on that bill after it was returned?

Mr. WOLD. Well, I believe he did say something about that. I don't remember the time, but on an appropriation bill it would take him—

Captain BRIAN. This bill made 20 large pages, you know, in its enrolled form.

Mr. WOLD. I have no idea, because I never read the bills, but of course it is going to take some time.

Captain BRIAN. Would it take two hours?

Mr. WOLD. I would not like to testify about that, Mr. Brian, for the simple reason that I do not know anything about it. I never had any experience in reading appropriation bills.

Captain BRIAN. Did Mr. McKenney say he was going to read that himself?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

Captain BRIAN. Or that he was going to entrust it to someone else?

Mr. WOLD. He was going to read it himself.

Captain BRIAN. Did he give any reason for that?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, I believe he did.

Captain BRIAN. Have you any objection to stating the reason?

Mr. WOLD. He said that there was a mistake discovered in the sundry civil bill, and he proposed to have the public buildings bill correct.

Captain BRIAN. And for that reason he proposed to read it himself, and to be very careful with it?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. That is the point I was trying to get out yesterday. I was trying to show that the error in the sundry civil bill constrained the enrolling clerk of the House to be extra cautious in the enroll-

ment of subsequent measures. Now, Mr. Wold, you say Mr. McKenney was waiting for the papers in the case?

Mr. WOLD. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. From whom would he naturally receive them?

Mr. WOLD. I could not tell you that. I suppose they would come from somebody in the House—from the Speaker's table, presumably.

Mr. HOWE. From the Speaker's table or from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds?

Mr. WOLD. From the Speaker's table, because the Senate officially notified the House that they had agreed to the conference. Then it would lay upon the Speaker's table until the proper official delivered it to Mr. McKenney.

Mr. HOWE. Is it not a fact that the Senate met at 10 o'clock on Saturday, in the expectation of receiving that conference report immediately after convening, and that they had to wait until after 1 o'clock before it came over?

Mr. WOLD. So I understand.

Mr. HOWE. It is pretty generally known around the Senate that there was confusion on the part of the House as to their rights to submit that report, and that some one came over here from the House on a mission of investigation, as it were. Do you know anything about that?

Mr. WOLD. Not that I know of. Probably Mr. Platt does, as he would be the man who handles all the papers in the case.

Mr. HOWE. Speaking from your experience, have there been any unreasonable delays on the part of the Printing Office in returning matter to the Senate?

Mr. WOLD. Not as long as I have been in the Secretary's office.

Mr. HOWE. You have never heard of any criticism of that kind?

Mr. WOLD. No, sir.

The committee (at 4.30 o'clock p. m.) adjourned, subject to notice.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING, UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., July 12, 1906—3 o'clock p. m.

Met pursuant to notice.

Present: Mr. Albert H. Howe, representing the Committee on Printing.

Also, Captain Brian, Mr. Young, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Benjamin S. Platt, Mr. W. A. Smith, Mr. Wold, and others.

STATEMENT OF BENJAMIN S. PLATT, ENROLLING CLERK, UNITED STATES SENATE.

Mr. HOWE. We are glad to see you, Mr. Platt, because we want to get some facts—

Mr. PLATT. I sent the resolution over to you, but I did not know you would get to work so soon.

Mr. HOWE. We want to get some facts about the bills regarding which there was some criticism in the latter days of the session. Will you state your full name and the position you occupy?

Mr. PLATT. My name is Benjamin S. Platt, enrolling clerk of the United States Senate. I am engrossing and enrolling clerk. I do not suppose it makes any difference.

Mr. HOWE. And you have occupied that position for a considerable length of time, have you not?

Mr. PLATT. Well, I have been here as assistant enrolling clerk and as enrolling clerk for about twenty-two years. I think I have been enrolling clerk about twenty years. I came here in 1884, I believe, under General McCook. My immediate predecessor, Mr. Sympton, died either during my first or second year—I do not know just which it was—just after the adjournment of Congress.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Platt, the two bills regarding which there was criticism as to delay, seem to have been the general deficiency bill and the public buildings bill.

Mr. PLATT. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. And I would like to get some facts from you as to the handling of those two measures in the Clerk's office of the Senate. Do you recall about what hour the general deficiency bill passed the Senate?

Mr. PLATT. I am a little in doubt about the general deficiency bill and about the public buildings bill. I think the public buildings bill passed first, but I am not certain about that.

Mr. HOWE. I know, but if it is agreeable to you I would like to take up each measure separately and get the facts about that. The testimony that has been taken would show that the general deficiency bill passed the Senate sometime Thursday evening?

Mr. PLATT. That is right.

Mr. HOWE. Do you remember about when?

Mr. PLATT. No, I am a little mixed as to which one I got first. I think I received the public buildings bill first, and that would be about, possibly, 10 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Then if you received the public buildings bill first you could not have received the general deficiency bill until after 10 o'clock, certainly.

Mr. PLATT. I am in doubt about it. Mr. Wold, if you will look in Mr. Horne's desk, if you can get in there, there is a note that I made or that he made for me.

Mr. HOWE. We will pass that by for a minute. It certainly passed the Senate on Thursday night.

Mr. PLATT. I sent the public buildings bill to the Printing Office first.

Mr. HOWE. I am coming to the question of the public buildings bill later.

Mr. PLATT. All right.

Mr. HOWE. You sent the engrossed copy for the general deficiency bill to the Public Printer that evening?

Mr. PLATT. No; I sent my copy, not the engrossed copy. It would not be that. I sent my copy for the deficiency bill to the Government Printing Office between, I think, 11 and 12 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. At night?

Mr. PLATT. At night. I did not get the proof back that night because it was very late, but I received the general deficiency bill the next morning. I asked Mr. Dierken—I think he was in charge—to send me the proof next morning by half past 8.

Mr. HOWE. You did not want the proof that night, yourself?

Mr. PLATT. Well, I did not see that we could get it back that night very well unless it was 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. HOWE. Did the House want it messaged over that night?

Mr. PLATT. Oh, no; they did not want it messaged over. They were not in session.

Mr. HOWE. I understood the House was in session.

Mr. PLATT. Not at that hour.

Mr. HOWE. And that the House was rather anxious to get the general deficiency bill that night?

Mr. PLATT. No, sir; they were not in session at that hour. The man who makes up the bills with the Senate amendments numbered, came over to me and wanted to know what time he could get it, and I told him he could not get it that night; but the House was not in session at that hour.

Mr. HOWE. I see. Well, you got the proof back next morning, you say?

Mr. PLATT. I got the proof back, but instead of being half past 8 it was 20 minutes past 9 when I got the proof back on the deficiency bill. That is my recollection, that it was 20 minutes past 9.

Mr. HOWE. We have testimony to the effect that the proof was sent to you next morning at 8.25.

Mr. PLATT. That is a mistake.

Mr. HOWE. Can the Printing Office show delivery at any specified time on that proof, Captain Brian?

Mr. PLATT. Because I telephoned for the proof in the morning to Mr. Dierken, and wanted to know how soon it could be up, and it came to me, I am very sure, about 20 minutes past 9. In fact, as my memory is refreshed now, I think the messenger brought it to me and I said, "Where have you been so long? I understand this was on the way some time ago," and if I am not mistaken—I would not be dead sure about it—I think he said "No; I have been delivering something to the House." I said, "You should have come here first." That is my recollection. However, that is a very small matter, it seems to me, the difference between sending it at 8.25 and 20 minutes past 9.

Mr. HOWE. Had you asked for it earlier?

Mr. PLATT. I asked the Printing Office where it was and why it was not here, and Mr. Dierken. I believe—I have almost always had my communication with Mr. Dierken—said it had been started.

Mr. HOWE. That was about when?

Mr. PLATT. Well, that was before 9 o'clock, or about 9 o'clock, but it had not reached me. I was more anxious about that, because my public buildings bill was all right. I was not so anxious about that.

Mr. HOWE. This matter that came to you shortly after 9 o'clock was proof, was it?

Mr. PLATT. That was proof.

Mr. HOWE. And you presumably inspected it and returned it for correction?

Mr. PLATT. Let me go back a moment. That bill was reported on Thursday morning. It was sent down to the Printing Office, with the Senate amendments, by Mr. Gibbons. It came back here complete, I think, somewhere along toward 12 or 1 o'clock, and that was the earliest I could get hold of that bill, to write my amendments. I anticipate all amendments.

Mr. HOWE. Certainly.

Mr. PLATT. I immediately put Mr. Horne to work, and in the course of an hour and a half or so he had completed the work of preparing the copy for the amendments.

Mr. HOWE. That was not an unusual consumption of time?

Mr. PLATT. Not by any means. It was remarkably quick work. We sent that down to the Printing Office and I had it back—I do not know what time; I will not say what time, as I do not know just what time—but it was back in time, and the Senate went on with their work of passing that bill. I could not do any more about my amendments until they got through with their bill on the floor of the Senate, excepting to get an amendment occasionally and write it out. Then after the Senate passed the bill I had to prepare the other copy of the amendments that had been put in the bill on the floor, which we did, and sent it to the Printing Office that night, Thursday night. Generally a bill is reported on one day and taken up maybe the next day or three or four or five days after. I get my amendments written immediately as they come in, and if a day or two are consumed in passing a bill, I amend my bill every night and send it to the Printing Office, get the proof back again, and keep it going in that way; but in the last day of the session, when a bill is passed, it is impossible for me to write out the amendments and put them in until the bill is passed. I can not disturb them at the desk and get the copy always.

Mr. HOWE. Then you got this back next morning shortly after 9 o'clock, you say?

Mr. PLATT. Shortly after 9 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. And presumably—

Mr. PLATT. Read my proof.

Mr. HOWE. Oh, yes; you read your proof and returned it to the Printing Office?

Mr. PLATT. I read my proof and returned it to the Printing Office.

Mr. HOWE. When did you get it back finally in its corrected form?

Mr. PLATT. We had it back with the Senate amendments numbered—the deficiency bill we are speaking of now?

Mr. HOWE. Yes, sir.

Mr. PLATT. Well, I got that bill back between 1 and 2 o'clock, I think.

(At this point Mr. Wold returned to the room with the note referred to by Mr. Platt.)

Mr. PLATT. Let me see if I have a note here, if I may; I do not know whether I have or not. I got the deficiency bill back from the Printing Office somewhere near 1 o'clock, with my Senate amendments numbered. Then I compared the bill again, because I had not read a lot of the amendments that were in the bill. I had it here, though, in the engrossed state. If there were any slight amendments, or an amendment that was left out, I would either send it back to the Printing Office, or if it was a line that was left out I would write it in or print it in. But I got that back, read my amendments, and found the bill, I think, substantially correct, and then messaged it to the House.

Mr. HOWE. About when?

Mr. PLATT. Between 1 and 2 o'clock. That would be Friday.

Mr. HOWE. Now, the print of the bill that Senator Hale wanted to use in conference, of course, could not have been supplied to him before it was messaged to the House and enrolled by the House?

Mr. PLATT. Yes; it could have been, because the man who makes up the bills with the Senate amendments numbered could have gone to the Printing Office, which we have done time and time again, and have made out his amendments there, and then they probably would have received that bill at the House some little time earlier than they did receive it.

Mr. HOWE. Who is that man?

Mr. PLATT. I do not know his name. Wakefield—no; I do not know his name.

Mr. HOWE. Is he an employee of your office?

Mr. PLATT. No; of the House. The House generally prints the bills of the Senate with the amendments numbered—that is, dovetailed in the bill. They do not print our amendments the way we print them; but they take our amendments and dovetail them in the deficiency bill, with the Senate amendments numbered.

Mr. HOWE. And the print resulting therefrom is the print the conference committee wanted?

Mr. PLATT. That is the print the conference committee wanted.

Mr. HOWE. And you think the conferees would have gotten that print more quickly if some attaché of the House had taken the trouble to go over and get an advanced copy?

Mr. PLATT. If he had gone over, yes. I telephoned to that gentleman, I think in the morning, that I had the amendments ready and had sent them back to the Printing Office, and I presumed that he would go down there, because the night before he asked me if he went down there if it would do any good on that night. I told him I did not think it would do any good, but he could go if he wanted to. He was the judge of that, not I. I think there may have possibly been an hour lost there, but I would not say that for sure; but I think there was some little time lost there.

Mr. HOWE. There seems to have been no criticism concerning the general deficiency bill beyond that point, so we will turn our attention now to the public buildings bill.

Mr. PLATT. Well, I did not know there had been any criticism in regard to the deficiency bill anyway, excepting that they were a little anxious to get the bill in conference a little earlier than they did.

Mr. HOWE. The only criticism there was about the deficiency bill was that the conferees were delayed in getting that print on which they wanted to work, and my inquiry concerning that bill has been to explain, or to ascertain, where the delay was, if any. Now—

Mr. PLATT. If you will allow me, Mr. Howe, I can not conceive that there was any delay, unless it was in going from here to the Printing Office. If that gentleman who makes it up had worked there a little he might have saved a little time there, but that delay was not much. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and the bill was ready and out before the other bill was.

Mr. HOWE. Before I get into the public buildings bill inquiry just let me ask you whether, in your judgment, there was any unnecessary delay in the handling of the deficiency bill in your office?

Mr. PLATT. I think not. I think, without any doubt, there was not a particle of delay in the handling of the bill in our office—the Secretary's office.

Mr. HOWE. When did you say the public buildings bill passed the Senate?

Mr. PLATT. That passed Friday night.

Mr. HOWE. Friday night?

Mr. PLATT. Thursday night. The public buildings bill passed on June 28, and that was Thursday night, I think.

Mr. HOWE. About when?

Mr. PLATT. Well, I am under the impression that it was between 9 and 10 o'clock. I am not certain about that, but the public buildings bill and the Senate amendments were messaged to the House shortly after 11 o'clock on Friday morning. That went over before the deficiency bill did. We had the public buildings bill. My work was back at my office when the messenger came there about 9 o'clock, or 20 minutes after 9.

Mr. HOWE. That was Friday morning?

Mr. PLATT. That was Friday morning. Then I ran over that bill again.

Mr. HOWE. The proof of that, Mr. Platt, was in the same situation that the proof of the deficiency bill was—that you did not care for it that night, and got the proof of it the next morning?

Mr. PLATT. I had the public buildings bill ready before the House met the next morning, so that it could not have made any difference. I think, if I am not mistaken, the House met at 10 or 10.55 that morning—I am not certain. I had the public buildings bill ready to go over when the House met, and it was messaged over between 10 and 11 o'clock—shortly after 10; but it was practically ready to go when the House met.

Mr. HOWE. The House did not meet, I think, until 11.

Mr. PLATT. I think it met at 10.55 that morning.

Mr. HOWE. It went over in the first message?

Mr. PLATT. Oh, yes. We did not wait for anything. Just as soon as we had it ready and the House met we sent it over.

Mr. HOWE. The procedure over there, Mr. Platt, after you messaged it over, would be to—

Mr. PLATT. To order it printed with the Senate amendments numbered, if they wanted it. That is, with my amendments, which were already numbered in my bill, dovetailed into the ordinary bill, so that the conferees would have the bill with the amendments right before them in the one bill.

Mr. HOWE. At what stage of the proceedings does the House disagree to the amendments—the minute it is messaged over?

Mr. PLATT. Oh, yes; we sent that bill over between 10 and 11 o'clock, or shortly after 11 o'clock, and they disagreed to the Senate amendments and asked for a conference. Just at what moment, or what hour or half hour, they did that I do not know.

Mr. HOWE. Well, that is not material.

Mr. PLATT. But it was practically soon after the bill went to them, between 10 and 11.

Mr. HOWE. Do you recall about when it was that it went to conference, approximately?

Mr. PLATT. When it went to conference? No; I do not. That would not come under my notice. The House sends the message that they have disagreed to the Senate amendments, and ask a conference, and I write the message that we insist upon our amendments and grant the conference, and send the bill back, and I do not see the bill again until they agree or disagree; so that I could not tell you. Of course

the journal clerk—the clerk at the desk—would know just what time that came back, if there is any reason why they should know; but there never has been any reason why they should know it particularly.

Mr. HOWE. Do you happen to remember when the first conference report on the public buildings bill was submitted?

Mr. PLATT. No, I do not. When it was submitted? That was Friday morning. I am under the impression that the report was submitted on Saturday morning, but I am not certain about that.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Wold yesterday testified, reading from the Journal, that on June 29th, in the evening session, Mr. Scott presented the conference report in part and further insisted upon certain amendments which were in disagreement, and asked a further conference.

Mr. PLATT. June 29th?

Mr. HOWE. That was in the evening session of Friday. It went to conference. Well, it must have been shortly after noon. It is usual—

Mr. PLATT. It probably went to conference along toward 3 or 4 o'clock. I do not think it went to conference much before that in the afternoon of the night that it passed. I sent it over there. Yes; it may have gone to conference before that. I guess it did. It probably went to conference immediately; probably within an hour after they received it. You say Mr. Wold testified that the conference report was made Thursday?

Mr. HOWE. That it was made on the evening of Friday. Then Mr. Wold further testified, reading from the Journal, that on the 30th the second one was presented. It seems, Mr. Platt, that there was considerable delay in the submission of the conference report on the public buildings bill—the last conference report. I gathered in some way or other that there was some confusion as to which House should submit the report first. Do you recall anything about that?

Mr. PLATT. Well, there ought not to have been any confusion.

Mr. HOWE. Was there confusion?

Mr. PLATT. Not that I know of; not that I know of. Not being inside, you know, I do not catch onto all those things. There is a parliamentary rule for proceeding in regard to conference reports. The House that grants the conference always should make the report first, but this conference report was agreed to in part, and then I presume—I have not got the conference report with me—unfortunately at the end of the session the conference reports are not all sent to me from the other House, and so I have not got the second conference report on the public buildings bill with me. Mr. McKenney must have that in the office, and he should have sent it to me so that I could keep my papers intact. But we sent that bill back, or that bill went back, with the statement that the Senate had agreed to the report of the committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate, and so on. We sent that back, and then the House—

Mr. HOWE. That was about 1.45 p. m.?

Mr. PLATT. It was possibly about that time, as well as I can recollect now. I have not any note of it. I would not judge there was any delay about it. The thing went right along.

Mr. HOWE. There was no delay in the Senate action at all, I understand.

Mr. PLATT. Then the House insisted upon the amendment disagreed to. We sent the report back that we had been unable to agree upon amendments 5, 11, 14, 17, and so forth, and the House then insisted upon their amendments, and asked, as I remember, a conference. I may be a little at fault on that, but I think the House insisted and asked a conference, and then we granted the conference again; and if that is so we ought to have made the first report.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask right there, if you stated a while ago that this first conference report was agreed to about 1 o'clock on Saturday?

Mr. PLATT. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. I think, by the Record, that is a mistake, and that the second conference was ordered on the 29th, so that the first report was made on Friday.

Mr. HOWE. Friday is the 29th.

Captain BRIAN. That is when the first report was made; not on Saturday.

Mr. HOWE. The second report was made on Saturday.

Mr. PLATT. The first report of the committee on conference was made Friday night, along toward 10 or 11 o'clock, I think, after the House had adjourned, if I am not mistaken. Does the Record show a message over that night or the next morning? I think it was messaged over the next morning, because the House had adjourned.

Captain BRIAN. I do not know when it was messaged over.

Mr. PLATT. It was pretty late that night, because I loaned the conference report to the official reporters to make up their proceedings for the Record, and I am under the impression that the conference report did not go back that night. If it did, it was put in the action of the House immediately the next morning.

Mr. HOWE. Well, the Journal shows that on June 29, which was Friday, Mr. Scott presented the conference report on the public buildings bill in part, and further insisted upon certain amendments which were in disagreement, and asked a further conference. Under that procedure which House should make the report first?

Mr. PLATT. The House which granted the conference should have made its report first. That reversed the order of procedure. I had forgotten. I have not that other conference report—

Mr. HOWE. There seems to have been a great deal of time, Mr. Platt, between the moment when the conference agreed on the second report and the time when the report was submitted in the House?

Mr. PLATT. That I know nothing about.

Mr. HOWE. As I have said, there was an impression around that the House were in doubt as to their rights, and that they were waiting for the Senate to submit the report, and the Senate on the other hand were waiting for the House to submit their report, and that some one came over from the House to inquire why the Senate had not submitted this report.

Mr. PLATT. They would not inquire of me. I would know nothing whatever about that.

Mr. HOWE. Of whom would they inquire?

Mr. PLATT. They would inquire inside, of the Journal clerks, undoubtedly. If they had come to me I would have told them how a conference report should be made, but I have no recollection now of anybody coming to me and asking where the conference report should be made.

Mr. HOWE. Have you any recollection of anyone coming from the House and making such an inquiry?

Mr. PLATT. No; I have not. What information have you as to when the first conference report was made, did you say? That was made——

Mr. HOWE. On June 29.

Mr. PLATT. Friday night.

Mr. HOWE. In the evening?

Mr. PLATT. Yes; it was along toward 10, 11, or 12 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. The Record shows that shortly after the Senate assembled on Saturday, June 30, Senator Scott asked the Senate to have patience, and said that he wished to state "that as soon as the report could be written up by the clerk the conferees on the public buildings bill have agreed on a report, which will be presented." That was shortly after the assembling of the Senate on Saturday—shortly after 10 o'clock. The conferees had agreed, and it was about 1.30 o'clock on that day when the conference report was submitted.

Mr. PLATT. In the Senate?

Mr. HOWE. In the Senate.

Mr. PLATT. Well, that did not delay the matter. It expedited the matter to some extent, because if the House had made the conference report first, as really they should have done under the parliamentary procedure, the papers would all have been sent back here and they would have had to lay here until we had agreed to the conference report, before Mr. McKenney could get the papers to go to work on his bill; so I do not really think there was any delay there. I could not conceive that there was much delay on Saturday morning on that bill, from the time the conference report was submitted here until Mr. McKenney got the bill to enroll.

Mr. HOWE. But the fact was that Congress was waiting and waiting for the submission of that conference report.

Mr. PLATT. Yes; but if the conferees did not have it ready Congress had to wait.

Mr. HOWE. But the conferees agreed, according to Senator Scott's statement, early in the morning.

Mr. PLATT. That may be, but they have to read over the conference report, and that would take some time to do.

Mr. HOWE. Would it take until so late in the day——

Mr. PLATT. If I had the second conference report I could tell more about it, but I have not got it. Here is the first conference report, and by examination you will see that it took the clerks of the House and Senate committees some time to make up this conference report. Then it was sent back and they disagreed, and then, you see, that had to go into another conference. Just what time that second conference was reported I am unable to say. In fact, I do not know what time I received it. I was too busy to note whether that came to me at 10 o'clock, 11 o'clock, 1 o'clock, or what time, because I did not suppose there would be any confusion about the matter. If I had supposed there would be I would have made notes about the matter, so that I could have spoken definitely about it; but the fact was that we did not meet until 10 o'clock, and it was some time after that before the conference report was submitted and sent back. Now, where the delay was, whether it was in the House or the Senate, and the length of that delay, I do not know. If I had the second conference

report and could look at the amendments I could tell how long it would take a clerk to write off those amendments and get the bill back again.

Mr. YOUNG. Would this help you [handing paper to witness]?

Mr. PLATT. Well, I should think an hour's time would be sufficient to make up that second conference report. How long they were I do not know.

Mr. HOWE. I shall have some testimony to-morrow from Mr. Steele, who had something to do with the writing of that conference report.

Mr. PLATT. But I can tell you—have you any testimony as to when the enrolling clerk of the House got the second conference report, so that he could go on and enroll the bill? I might give you some information about that.

Mr. HOWE. That has been brought out. Do you recall, Captain Brian, when that was?

Captain BRIAN. About half past 2, I think, it was testified to.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Wold says he went over to Mr. McKenney's room at 2.15 and he had not commenced to prepare the copy for the enrolled bills.

Mr. PLATT. The conference report had to be made up on Saturday morning and the Senate did not meet until 10 o'clock. It would take, say, an hour for those clerks to make it up. If they had not commenced before 10 o'clock, that would be 11 o'clock. Just what time we sent that back to the House I can not say, but Mr. McKenney got the conference report on the public buildings bill about half past 2 o'clock to make up his copy for the printer.

Mr. HOWE. Captain Brian, was not that the matter that went to you at 2.35 and came back at 3.25?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir; this is the copy that reached us at 4 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Yes; I recall now.

Captain BRIAN. It was the deficiency bill at 2.35.

Mr. HOWE. You got the copy at 4 o'clock?

Mr. PLATT. Of what?

Captain BRIAN. Mr. McKenney's enrolled copy.

Mr. PLATT. Of the public buildings bill?

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. PLATT. Mr. McKenney got the conference report to make up his bill in the neighborhood of half past 2 o'clock. Then he had to make up his copy for the printers, from his bill, from our amendments and from his conference report. There are three things that that man had to have before him to make up his bill, and there was an amendment in almost every line of that bill, or an amendment between every other line or so. It is no small job to do it. I do not know just when he got his copy down to Captain Brian, or Mr. Young, and what time it came back from the Printing Office. That I do not know. Captain Brian has probably testified about that; but I do know there was considerable delay here about the time we were going to adjourn. At first the report came that we were going to adjourn at half past 11 and then at half past 12. If they had been my bills I could have told, and I guess probably Captain Brian will bear me out in this, within about an hour's time of when they could adjourn.

It may be that the powers that be did not inquire of anybody who knew what time they could set for adjournment; but it was very provoking to have the President compelled to stay here until half-past 8

o'clock at night. But, really, as far as I can see, it was unavoidable, except in one way. I do not testify to that as being a sure thing, but I went over to the enrolling room. I inquired of the Printing Office about what time the bill would be up carrying the appropriations for the public buildings bill. It was not any of my affair, but I inquired, and they told me that would be up about 6 o'clock, and that the public buildings bill would follow shortly. They did not say just what time. So I went in and told the Secretary. They were all impatient there in the President's room, and I told the Secretary about it. I said, "You can tell the President, Mr. Secretary, that the bill will be over here—the bill carrying the appropriations—about 6 o'clock, ready for signature; and the other bill, as I understand it, will be up shortly."

The President said—I do not know whether I should relate it or not, but I do not know as it would make any difference—the President said, "I will wait until 7 o'clock, but I would like it better if I could get away a little before that." We said that from all accounts at that hour we thought possibly he might get away at 7 o'clock. So then I went over to the House, to Mr. McKenney's room, to find out what he was doing. He was busy there with his two clerks, and when I got a chance I said, "Mac, what time will the public buildings bill be over to the Senate?" He said, "I don't know; it will be some time yet."

Mr. HOWE. What reason did he give for that?

Mr. PLATT. He says, "I do not know; it will be some time yet before that bill will be over." He says, "I find a mistake in nearly every"—he was reading the enrolled copy then, the parchment copy—he says, "I find a mistake in every page, or almost, or every other page, and have to send it back to the Printing Office to be corrected." It would take ten minutes to get to the Printing Office, and they would have to make that correction, and put that form on the press again, and it would take a man ten minutes to get back again, and by that time another sheet was ready to go back. I presume, or may be before; but whether those mistakes were Mr. McKenney's mistakes or the fault of the Printing Office I do not know.

Mr. HOWE. We have testimony on that subject.

Mr. PLATT. I do not know anything about that.

Mr. HOWE. We understand there were seven pages containing Capitol errors, and three pages containing Printing Office errors.

Mr. PLATT. Well, that I know nothing about. There was a delay there, but where it was I do not know, or whose fault it was I do not know. Probably it was unavoidable.

Mr. HOWE. Would you call it a delay, or simply say that it was a consumption of a legitimate amount of time, considering the magnitude and complexity of the work?

Mr. PLATT. Well, I think the delay was rather unavoidable and yet I do not know why every page or every other page should go back. I do not put the blame on anybody; I do not want to do that, but I can not quite conceive how you would prepare the copy for a bill of that character and then when you get the enrolled copy back have a mistake on every page or every other page, or two or three mistakes. I think there might have been some time that might have been saved there, but I can not say. It was not my bill and I can not say.

Mr. HOWE. Have you any theory as to why so much time elapsed between the agreement of the conferees on the public buildings bill and the time when the conference report was offered in the House?

Mr. PLATT. I have no theory whatever, because I do not know what time it was offered in the House. That I do not know anything about.

Mr. HOWE. What time was it offered in the House? We have some testimony on that. Do you recall, Captain Brian?

Captain BRIAN. I do not know. The Senate took a recess immediately after that—at 1.55.

Mr. PLATT. Immediately after it was offered here?

Captain BRIAN. Yes, immediately after it was offered in the Senate.

Mr. PLATT. The Senate agreed to it and then took a recess?

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. PLATT. We had agreed to it, then, at possibly 1.50.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Platt, the House took a recess at 1.20 p. m., just before which they had agreed to the conference report on the public buildings bill.

Mr. PLATT. At 1.20?

Mr. HOWE. 1.20. Just before 1.20 they agreed to that conference report. You see Senator Scott said that the conferees had agreed very shortly after 10 o'clock in the morning, and there was a lapse of time between say 10 o'clock in the morning and 1.20 which I am trying to account for. You have testified that in your judgment, from an inspection of the matter, an hour would probably be a sufficient amount of time for the preparation of that conference report. In the light of this statement, have you any theory as to why so long a time elapsed between the agreement and the rendering of the report?

Mr. PLATT. No, I have not any whatever. It is not in my province at all.

Mr. HOWE. Did Mr. Hinds come over here to inquire why the Senate had not submitted that conference report?

Mr. PLATT. Not to me.

Mr. HOWE. Do you know whether he came over or not?

Mr. PLATT. I do not. He did not come to me. I can tell you that. Nobody came to me.

Mr. HOWE. That, of course, was not my question. I am simply trying to get the facts for the information of the Committee on Printing.

Mr. PLATT. I beg your pardon—

Mr. HOWE. If you have any knowledge on the subject, I think it would be quite proper that you should give it.

Mr. PLATT. I beg your pardon. I answered to the best of my ability. Mr. Hinds did not come to me; neither do I know of his being over here, or anybody else, in regard to the public buildings bill, or any other bill on that day. I did not quite catch onto your question, if I did not answer it properly. You think possibly that I had some knowledge and did not state it. I have no knowledge whatever. Mr. Hinds did not come to me. Who he went to, if he came, I do not know. I have no knowledge of his coming here at all—not a particle of knowledge.

Mr. HOWE. Have you any knowledge that there was any confusion in the matter?

Mr. PLATT. I have not. I know Mr. Steele on several occasions has asked me how conference reports were made and I have told him. He spoke to me about that conference report a day or two before it went into conference; about how the conference report should be made, and asked me if I would give him information as to making out one. I told him that if there was any way in which I could assist him I would do it; but I tell most everybody, if I am in doubt about it, that Mr. Cleaves is the best authority on conference reports around the building, if I am ever in doubt about it.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Cleaves prefers not to testify.

Mr. PLATT. Well, I suppose you can not compel him. I can not explain that. As I say, the clerks often come to me about conference reports, and when I am able to give them the information I give it to them; but, as I say, if I am in doubt about it I tell them that Mr. Cleaves is one of the best authorities around the Capitol, and to run right across the hall and ask Mr. Cleaves.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Platt, that there was confusion in regard to the procedure of submitting this conference report is shown in the Record, where Senator Hale, on Saturday, asked:

Does either of the Senators know which body assented to the conference?

Mr. WARREN. The House assented. The Senate asked for the last conference.

Mr. HALE. Is the Senator sure of that?

Mr. WARREN. Yes.

Mr. HALE. Because that will make a difference in the proposition of our taking a recess.

I quote that to show that there was confusion, and I thought that you perhaps might have been aware of the confusion.

Mr. PLATT. No; I did not read the Record, and I was not in there at the time. I had no time to be in the Senate, and I had no time to listen to these debates at that stage of the session. I know nothing about any confusion, and even if there was any confusion it was a very easy matter to settle it. It need not have taken several hours, or a half hour, to have settled the matter. Ten minutes would have settled the matter.

Mr. HOWE. I should think so, unless each House was quietly waiting with folded hands for the other House to report.

Mr. PLATT. I think not. They were both anxious to get that bill through. There is no doubt about that; and I do not know why they should have taken that time, because Mr. Hinds could have told them over there, or the Journal clerks could have told them, that if they had inquired over here some of us could have told them where the conference report should have been made first. But just how much delay there was anywhere I do not know. As I said before, if it had been my bill I could have told you where the delay was, if there was any delay, and just how it occurred.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Platt, in your judgment was the Printing Office ordinarily expeditious in its work during the latter days of this session?

Mr. PLATT. I think so; I think they were.

Mr. HOWE. Your experience is that the copy you send them comes back to you with reasonable alacrity?

Mr. PLATT. Yes. I have not any hesitation in saying that I think the Printing Office, on the whole, is very expeditious, and, as a general thing, very correct. There is occasionally a short delay sometimes, when we think there ought not to be, and there may be a little

fault to find in the proof reading sometimes, but those things will happen in the best-regulated families. You can not help it. I have never lost anything on account of delay in the Printing Office since we commenced to enroll bills by printing; never. I have always found that the Printing Office has been, I think, equal to the emergency.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Spottswood, the other day, in his testimony alluded to your having called at the Office—the Government Printing Office—and having made some such expression as the one you have just made. Do you recall what you said to Mr. Spottswood? It was in the nature of a commendation of the Printing Office for the work they had done.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Platt called at Mr. Spottswood's house, he said.

Mr. HOWE. Oh, that is right. He did say that you called at his house.

Mr. PLATT. We did make a call at Mr. Spottswood's house Sunday evening. We were going away in a day or two, and we went around there. He was speaking about what the papers had stated and what Senator Hale had said, and I remember saying to him, the same as I have said now, that as a general thing the Printing Office was pretty rapid in their work. I do not think I ever told him that we had not any complaint to make, because that would not have been true. I thought, when you first spoke, that it might have been in regard to an interview I had with Mr. Stillings. I do not recall just what I did say to Mr. Spottswood, excepting that as a general thing I had no complaint to make about the work. What little complaint I have made I have made to the Printing Office, to Mr. Stillings.

Mr. HOWE. With reference to the complaints you have had to make, have they related to errors of such magnitude that they would assume the nature of a scandal?

Mr. PLATT. Not in the least; no, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Have they operated to subject Congress to unreasonable inconvenience?

Mr. PLATT. Not anything that has occurred in my branch of the business—not anything.

Mr. HOWE. You say you had a conversation with Mr. Stillings?

Mr. PLATT. Oh, I say that; yes. Mr. Stillings called me over the phone one day and wanted to know if I would come down there, or if he could come up here; that he would like to see me. I think it was in regard to something that happened just previous, and I said yes, that I would come down there, which I did. I went there and had quite a long talk with Mr. Stillings about the work of the Office, and about the work here.

Captain BRIAN. Have you any objection to stating how long ago that was—about?

Mr. PLATT. No; I have no objection whatever; if I could only recall the time. It was sometime, possibly, in—

Captain BRIAN. December, was it not?

Mr. PLATT. When?

Captain BRIAN. In December.

Mr. PLATT. No; not as long ago as that. It was after the holiday recess some time. I should say, if I was going to set the time, that it was in March or April.

Captain BRIAN. It was before that. I was there, and it was before that, I am sure.

Mr. PLATT. It might help me a little bit if you would tell me when you were appointed chief clerk by Mr. Stillings.

Mr. PLATT. That was when he came in, in November.

Mr. PLATT. Well, this was some time after, Captain, because we had been in session some time. It was in regard to some things — by the way, I think it was in regard to yourself, if I am not mistaken. You were up here one day, and something had happened the day before. I can not recall what it was. There was some bill that the Senate was in a great hurry for, and there was considerable delay, whether avoidable or unavoidable I do not know, in getting that bill back; but finally we got some 50 copies along about 5 o'clock or so. As I remember, you came in and you were at my desk, and we were talking about it. I said something about it and showed the bill to you, and I said I thought that two hours would have been sufficient time to have prepared that bill and had it back here, and you looked it over and said, "Yes; that is a two hours' job."

Mr. HOWE. What bill was that?

Mr. PLATT. I can not recall what it was.

Mr. HOWE. Captain Brian, do you recall what bill it was?

Captain BRIAN. I do not remember. It was early in the session. I do not remember the bill, but I remember the circumstances.

Mr. HOWE. It was not one of these bills, was it?

Captain BRIAN. Oh, no. That occurred in January or February.

Mr. PLATT. No; it was not one of these bills. That was the only real delay that I know of in anything that has occurred.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Platt, there is Mr. Spottswood's quotation of your remarks to him [handing record to the witness]. Do you stand for that?

Mr. PLATT. Well, I might have said to Mr. Spottswood something of this nature, and possibly, in substance, it is what I said; but I do not think I said to Mr. Spottswood [reading], "That no more than a proper amount of time had been consumed by those who handled the measure in perfecting it," because I really could not tell what time they might get the measure in hand and what time they might get it back to the House; but I think in the main that is correct.

Mr. HOWE. Did you say anything to Mr. Spottswood about the criticism that had been made of the Government Printing Office in connection with the work of the closing days of Congress?

Mr. PLATT. No; I can not recall any more than Mr. Spottswood said along in that same connection. I can only repeat here, and I am willing to stand for that, and if it coincides with what Mr. Spottswood said, all right, and if it does not, all right, that so far as my branch of the business is concerned I have but very little fault to find with the way the work has been conducted by the Government Printing Office, and that my work has never been delayed so that it would make any difference to the Senate or to myself.

Once in a while I have telephoned to the Office. "How long before that bill will be up, Joe," and the answer would be, "So and so." I would say, "Well, hurry it along; they are in a great hurry to get that bill over," and he would say, "We are doing the very best we can." I would say, "Yes, I think you are, but you have got to follow these things. You are a part of the enrolling force now, and you must follow these things. Hurry it up." But I do not think that

any delay has ever made any difference with my work, at the Government Printing Office, and I must say that the delays have been very few and far between. I did make some suggestions to Mr. Stillings about the delay that occurred, and he took copious notes of what I said, and he said he would have the evils corrected and he wanted me to make suggestions to him, which I did.

I told him I thought the time had come when he ought to keep a force there during the dinner hour or the lunch hour; that our work commenced here at 12 o'clock, and that very often in the first half hour we would have a bill which was in a great rush, and if the Printing Office takes a luncheon hour from 12 to half past 12 or 1 o'clock, and there is nobody there there is half an hour delay, and I suggested that the force be kept there, as it had been kept there in former administrations, and he said he thought it would be a good idea, and that he would do it. Whether that was done after that, from that time up to the time we adjourned, I can not say. I thought once or twice that possibly it had not occurred, but he said he would attend to it, and that he would see that somebody was kept there all the time.

Furthermore, he said he would keep a messenger here most of the time, but as far as that was concerned it was entirely unnecessary, I told him, because I could never tell when I was going to have hurried work. I could not tell until it was necessary to have him, and then I could send a messenger or telephone to the post-office for a riding page. It may be a digression, but I might say that we have no messengers here that we can send to the Printing Office. When I have a hurried bill I have to send down to the post office to see if I can get a riding page. Perhaps once out of a dozen times I would not be able to get one, and if I could not get one, then I would have to send one of our boys or men down to the Printing Office. That consumes time; but during the latter part of the session Mr. Stillings or Captain Brian, or whoever it may be, had a messenger at Mr. Smith's place, over in Statuary Hall, and I found it very convenient a number of times to call on him and have him come right over and take a bill down.

Mr. HOWE. The copy you send over to the Printing Office is carefully prepared, is it not?

Mr. PLATT. I think so.

Mr. HOWE. Is it ever in such shape that the Printing Office has to call upon you to elucidate it, and make it plain?

Mr. PLATT. I do not recall one instance in which any of our copy has been questioned at the Printing Office, except once in a while to make a query mark on the galley slip, and when I get it I settle the matter right there and then.

Mr. HOWE. What kind of proof have you got back? Pretty satisfactory proof?

Mr. PLATT. I get back pretty satisfactory proof. Of course, there are some mistakes in punctuation and one thing or another. Sometimes the printer probably thinks a comma ought to go in here or there, and he puts it in, and we have to take it out. However, that is a small matter, and is not a vital question. As a general thing the proof we get back is good. I have had an original bill come back to me which I have corrected, but I think when you take into consideration the amount of work that comes over here those errors are very few.

Mr. HOWE. There has been testimony to the effect that the Printing Office, on occasions, has had to telephone, not to your enrolling desk, but to the House enrolling desk, to get them to make plain some defects in the copy, and I asked some one here whether he would consider it feasible for the Public Printer to detail a copy preparer to serve the two enrolling desks during the rush time. Would that be of any assistance to you?

Mr. PLATT. Not in the least. It would be a detriment to the service. I do not want to be egotistical, but no man can make up my copy.

Mr. HOWE. You can be absolved from any charge of egotism, because the answer I got to the question was that you had had a thorough printing office training, and did not need any advice.

Mr. PLATT. Oh, it would be a detriment to have any such man. It is not necessary at all. I think whoever it was for that statement, but I can tell you where I think an improvement can be made. There are times when the enrolling clerk has nothing to do, comparatively, at the commencement of the session; but there are other times, in the last month or two of the session of Congress, when he does not get a minute's time, and it is just simply a jump from the time he comes in until he goes away at night. He is really under a mental strain, I think, all the time, especially during the last month or two or three weeks of the session, as you can conceive. I think that—well, I do not know whether I should say this or not, if you are going to have Mr. McKenney before you, or any one from the House side—but I think Mr. McKenney ought to have more assistants. He has one assistant there, and when I went over to see about the public buildings bill he had a third man there in his office, and they were each one looking at copy while they were reading to Mr. McKenney; but as a general thing I think he has to depend upon himself and his assistant—Mr. Wing, I think it is.

I am under the impression that Mr. McKenney ought to have at least three assistants, and I think one of those assistants should be a thoroughgoing typewriter, and a rapid one. As I understand it, Mr. McKenney has to write all his amendments out pretty much, and I think it would be more expeditious to have a typewriter with some experience. Then, at the close of a session, Mr. McKenney could take charge of his appropriation bills, and he could have these other two men attending to the other work. As I understand it—and if you do not want this, why just stop me—

Mr. HOWE. It is very interesting.

Mr. PLATT. As I understand it, Mr. McKenney can not, at the end of a session, read all his bills or compare his bills.

Mr. HOWE. Who does?

Mr. PLATT. He could not do it. It is simply a human impossibility.

Mr. HOWE. Who does?

Mr. PLATT. I will come to that, if you will excuse me. When you have four or five big appropriation bills open in the last twenty-four hours of the session of Congress, and especially preceding the 4th of March, with the other work, no two men can do that work; they can not do it, and do it properly. It has often been the case that three and four and five appropriation bills have been open in the last day or two—and what I mean by "open" is that they have not been agreed to in conference.

Mr. HOWE. Do those conditions obtain in your office?

Mr. PLATT. Not to that extent.

Mr. HOWE. You do not get under that extreme pressure?

Mr. PLATT. We do, as far as our work is concerned, in the passage of bills; but the hardest part of the work comes on the enrolling clerk of the House in the last two or three days, in making up those big bills. Now, what was your question?

Mr. HOWE. My question was, Who reads the bills over there?

Mr. PLATT. Well, I think—I may be mistaken, but I think not—that the sundry civil bill, as I understand it, was turned over to the Committee on Enrolled Bills to read, and that Mr. McKenney did not compare that bill at all. I am under the impression that he told me, or somebody told me, that the Committee on Enrolled Bills would have considerable to do if they examined every bill; but I would not trust any committee on enrolled bills to examine my bills, and not read them. I would not do it, especially where a conference report is involved.

Mr. HOWE. Is it not the duty of the Committee on Enrolled Bills to check Mr. McKenney's work after it goes out?

Mr. PLATT. It is their duty to read all of his bills, and then if they find any mistakes there they would send it back to Mr. McKenney, and he would take out that sheet or sheets, and have them corrected and returned to them. But, if that is the function of the Committee on Enrolled Bills, then I can not conceive why Mr. McKenney could be blamed for mistakes; but these mistakes are up to the enrolling clerk. The Committee on Enrolled Bills would get out of it. As I understand, Mr. McKenney did not compare this sundry civil bill—he did not have time—but the Committee on Enrolled Bills compared it. Of course Mr. McKenney had to make up the copy for that sundry civil bill, but when it got back on parchment, as I understand it, he turned it over to them to read. I turn all our bills over to the Committee on Enrolled Bills, but I never give one thing to them until I compare it myself.

Mr. HOWE. That is invariably your practice?

Mr. PLATT. That is invariably my practice. There is no exception, under any condition or circumstances.

Mr. HOWE. Under your statement of the conditions over there Mr. McKenney would not be responsible for any errors in the sundry civil bill?

Mr. PLATT. I think if they put it up to the Committee on Enrolled Bills to examine bills, if they can consider that is their function, that he ought not to be held responsible for a mistake in a bill.

Mr. HOWE. In any bill?

Mr. PLATT. Yes, because if there is a higher authority than Mr. McKenney, why should he be held responsible for it?

Mr. HOWE. The presumption would be that if he did not do reasonably accurate work they would have some other enrolling clerk.

Mr. PLATT. Well, Mr. McKenney is a good man where he is, but he needs more assistants, I think, and especially at the end of the session of Congress. We have always turned over our enrolled bills—the bills that are on parchment—to the Committee on Enrolled Bills. After it comes back to us to read we compare it with our copy, and then we send that and the parchment copy up to the Committee on Enrolled Bills. They examine it, and if they find anything the mat-

ter with the bill, anything that I have overlooked, they would return it to me for correction.

Mr. HOWE. Do they do that frequently?

Mr. PLATT. It is so infrequent that I can not tell you when it has been done. I do not believe I ever had but one or two returned to me.

Mr. HOWE. One or two in twenty years?

Mr. PLATT. One or two in twenty years; I think so. Something has been said about the Government Printing Office enrolling the bills. The Government Printing Office does not enroll a bill. They put it in type after we send it to them. They are not responsible for what we put in a bill. They do not make up the copy for bills. We make it up. The House enrolling clerk and the Senate enrolling clerk make that copy up, and they are responsible and not the Government Printing Office.

Mr. HOWE. The Government Printing Office, of course, ought to follow copy?

Mr. PLATT. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Unless they discover some palpable and egregious error.

Mr. PLATT. Then it is their duty to query it to the ones who sent the copy to them.

Captain BRIAN. Or call up on the telephone.

Mr. PLATT. Or telephone. If they telephone about something to me, and I know it is wrong, I say correct it. That has not happened but once or twice. When it comes back to me, though, I look at that and see whether it was right or wrong; and as far as our making up of copy is concerned, we have very strict rules and regulations in regard to the preparation of copy and the work of the printers.

Mr. HOWE. Who drafted those rules and regulations?

Mr. PLATT. I think Captain Brian and myself did.

Captain BRIAN. I decline; Mr. Platt did it.

Mr. HOWE. Captain Brian testified the other day that you prepared them.

Mr. PLATT. Well, I might own up to the soft impeachment. I prepared them on a train between here and New York once, and I submitted them to him for approval. He made some very valuable suggestions, and between the two of us we got them up. Senator Manderson was the chairman of the Committee on Printing at the time, and Senator Gorman was there, and the remark was made to me that he might like to go over this himself. He said no, that he didn't know anything about the thing himself, that he got the best experts he could and held them responsible. He said: "I didn't know you were a printer; I knew Captain Brian was." So we have those rules. I guess Captain Brian possibly fixed it up in printed shape. I have them at my desk there, and we are very particular about alterations. I never take liberties with a bill after it has passed the Senate. I never take a liberty with a bill; never.

Mr. HOWE. I would like to have a copy of those rules to incorporate in this record.

Mr. PLATT. I only have one. I have the original manuscript, I guess, but that would be a dead give away, because it is in my handwriting.

Mr. HOWE. I think that is all, Mr. Platt. Thank you.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask Mr. Platt just one question?

Mr. HOWE. Certainly.

Captain BRIAN. You testified a few minutes ago that Mr. McKenney was reading enrolled copy on the public buildings bill, and that he found an error in nearly every page, or every other page.

Mr. PLATT. Pardon me. I think possibly the expression might have been about every other page.

Captain BRIAN. Well, the last page he found an error in was page 15. There were 20 pages in the bill. Now, the question I want to ask is, do you think it would have delayed the bill any, or rather, whether we could not have corrected those pages and gotten them back here while he was reading the other 5 pages of that bill?

Mr. PLATT. Do you mean from the time it left here to come to you, and get back here?

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. PLATT. You ought not.

Captain BRIAN. Do you mean that it ought not to have delayed the bill?

Mr. PLATT. I should not think you could have them back while he was reading five pages of the bill?

Captain BRIAN. You do not think we could?

Mr. PLATT. I would not say that you could not, because you can do wonders.

Captain BRIAN. I know, but you must recollect that we had been receiving those pages as he proceeded?

Mr. PLATT. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. As he went along, and the last page he returned was page 15.

Mr. PLATT. The last page he returned to you was page 15?

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. PLATT. That is the highest number?

Captain BRIAN. Yes; that was the highest number.

Mr. PLATT. And there were 20 pages in the bill?

Captain BRIAN. There were 20 pages in the bill, and he had 5 pages to read after he returned the last page, and he had been returning them by messenger as fast as he read them.

Mr. PLATT. Your question is, Do I think it possible for you to have those 15 pages back here while he was reading the other 5 pages?

Captain BRIAN. Yes.

Mr. PLATT. I think if you did it was remarkably quick work.

Captain BRIAN. As a matter of fact we did, Mr. Platt.

Mr. HOWE. It was testified, Mr. Platt, that the last page went from here and was delivered back in eight minutes.

Captain BRIAN. No; the last page was in the Office eight minutes.

Mr. PLATT. It would be impossible to get it down there and back in eight minutes. You could not do it.

Captain BRIAN. No; the last page was in the Office eight minutes. Is that right, Mr. Morgan?

Mr. MORGAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. PLATT. I know the Printing Office, and I will say, as Mr. Spottswood said, that they are very expeditious in their work, and I believe they try to do their level best with us, and not only with us, but with all the work they have to attend to, and that there is not, as far as I know, unless it was in this case—which, it not being my bill, I can not say—any unreasonable delay in the Government Printing Office. I know of one time, if you will allow me to go back a little, several years ago, we had one bill, the code of civil law for the dis-

trict of Alaska. I think that was the biggest bill I ever handled. It made 150 pages of parchment, and I made over 3,000 changes in that bill.

Captain Brian was foreman of printing at that time, I think, and it was the last day of Congress when that bill was going through, or the night before; and the next morning, I know, we heard of one mistake in that bill. The Attorney-General sent for me and wanted me to point out where the mistake was. I said, "There was a mistake in it, but we have corrected it." I had heard of it a few minutes before. I took the sheet out and sent it down to Captain Brian, and telephoned about the correction, and before that [snapping his fingers] he had the sheet back with the correction made. I showed the Attorney-General where the correction was, and the President signed the bill. I simply relate that to show that the Printing Office is remarkably expeditious in their work. That bill made 150 pages, and I have never heard of a mistake in that bill yet. We made over 3,000 changes in it.

Captain BRIAN. Do you know anything about the District code?

Mr. PLATT. What was it, a Senate bill or a House bill? Do you remember?

Captain BRIAN. A House bill, I think.

Mr. PLATT. We made a great many amendments to it on Sunday night or Sunday afternoon. I know Senator McComas was very anxious about that bill, and he came down to me about it. We had to adjourn the next day, and I had the amendments ready. The Printing Office expedited the work, and we had the amendments over there, and the bill was put through in good shape and signed.

Captain BRIAN. A pretty large bill, was it not?

Mr. PLATT. Yes; it was a big piece of work.

Mr. HOWE. How large was it?

Mr. PLATT. I do not remember. I know the civil code of Alaska made 150 pages of parchment. That would make about 350 pages of ordinary print, but I have forgotten.

Mr. HOWE. We are much obliged to you, Mr. Platt. I think that is all. We will hear from Mr. Steele, of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

The committee (at 4.30 o'clock, p. m.) adjourned until to-morrow, Friday, July 13, 1906, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING, UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., July 13, 1906—11 o'clock a. m.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Albert H. Howe, representing the Committee on Printing.

Also, Captain Brian, Mr. Young, Mr. Morgan, Mr. John L. Steele, Mr. W. A. Smith, and others.

STATEMENT OF JOHN L. STEELE, CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, UNITED STATES SENATE.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Steele, you are the clerk of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds?

Mr. STEELE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. How long have you been connected with that committee?

Mr. STEELE. Simply since the organization of this last Congress.

Mr. HOWE. You never had anything to do with the formulation of an omnibus public buildings bill before this session?

Mr. STEELE. Never.

Mr. HOWE. Do you recall when the public buildings bill passed the House and came to the Senate? In other words, when it reached the hands of the Senate committee?

Mr. STEELE. Well, it passed the House on a Monday, the Monday of the last week. It came over to the Senate on Tuesday, and the committee met on its regular day, Wednesday, to take it up.

Mr. HOWE. Did they complete the consideration of it on that day?

Mr. STEELE. They completed the consideration of it that night.

Mr. HOWE. When did they report it?

Mr. STEELE. They reported the bill on Thursday to the Senate.

Mr. HOWE. With amendments?

Mr. STEELE. With amendments.

Mr. HOWE. Many?

Mr. STEELE. Roughly, 167, I should say, or something of that sort. The bill would show it; but I forget.

Mr. HOWE. That is not material. I simply wanted to find out whether there were few or many amendments.

Mr. STEELE. There were somewhere over 100.

Mr. HOWE. When was the bill taken up in the Senate, as you recollect it?

Mr. STEELE. It was taken up Thursday afternoon.

Mr. HOWE. That was the last Thursday of the session?

Mr. STEELE. That was the last Thursday of the session.

Mr. HOWE. Was it passed that afternoon?

Mr. STEELE. It was passed that night, late.

Mr. HOWE. Passed that night, late, and messaged over—

Mr. STEELE. And sent over to the House; but I want to say something about that Thursday afternoon. Through no fault of Senator Scott at all it was sidetracked right along.

Mr. HOWE. In the Senate?

Mr. STEELE. In the Senate. It was not a privileged report, and all privileged reports swept it out of the way. Mr. Tillman also made a speech on the Barnes case that afternoon; and when it was suggested to him, as the Record will show, that the public buildings bill was before the Senate, he said he could simply speak to an amendment, and that he was going to make his speech, and he spoke for a couple of hours, I believe, or something of that sort.

Mr. HOWE. That delayed the passage of the bill in the Senate?

Mr. STEELE. That delayed the passage of the bill in the Senate, and then in the evening, at 8 o'clock, Senator Hale called up the conference report on the sundry civil bill, which was a privileged matter, and sidetracked the public buildings bill until after he got through with the sundry civil bill, so that it made it late Thursday night when the public buildings bill passed the Senate.

Mr. HOWE. Then it went to the House?

Mr. STEELE. It went to the House either Thursday night or Friday morning—Friday morning some time.

Mr. HOWE. Then it was Friday morning that the House disagreed to the amendments and asked a conference?

Mr. STEELE. It was Friday morning that the House disagreed to

the amendments and asked a conference, and that conference was to be held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon.

Mr. HOWE. Was it held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon?

Mr. STEELE. The conference committee were present at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, and this is the only complaint that I know of to make against the Government Printing Office. We were informed that they had promised to have the bill, with the Senate amendments numbered, with the House committee at 2 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Do you happen to know when the Public Printer got the copy from which to print?

Mr. STEELE. No; I do not know a thing about that. All I know is that we were informed that they had promised the bill at 2 o'clock, and so the conference was called for 2 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. We have testimony as to when the copy reached them and when they returned it.

Mr. STEELE. They may have been absolutely within their rights in the matter, and may have done the very best work possible. I do not know about that. I only know that the conference committee could not go ahead with the work at 2 o'clock, and had to wait until 3 o'clock for these bills. The Printing Office sent over to the committee six copies—

Mr. WOLD. I brought four over.

Mr. STEELE. Four or five copies—a small number for the conference. There were not enough copies in this first lot to give the two clerks each a copy of the bill, and we were informed that the others were on the road and would be over as soon as they could get them there.

Captain BRIAN. That was between 2 and 3 o'clock?

Mr. STEELE. It was nearer 3 than 2.

Mr. HOWE. That was Friday?

Mr. STEELE. That was Friday.

Mr. HOWE. Then the conferees set to work?

Mr. STEELE. The conferees were in session then up until after 10 o'clock that night and made a partial report, which was reported to the Senate and reported to the House. The Senate acted on its report promptly, and the House acted somewhere before 12 o'clock. It was nearly 12 o'clock when they acted on it. They were in some parliamentary tangle of some kind, so that this bill could not be presented at once.

Mr. HOWE. Then there was still disagreement on some of the items?

Mr. STEELE. There was disagreement on from 14 to 20 items, I think.

Mr. HOWE. And a second conference was had?

Mr. STEELE. A second conference was held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. How long were the conferees engaged in the consideration of those disputed items?

Mr. STEELE. It was over within half an hour.

Mr. HOWE. Then, presumably, the clerks of the conference committee proceeded to prepare the copy for—

Mr. STEELE. For the final report to the House; and this copy, I presume, would go to the enrolling clerk, who would send it to the Public Printer.

Mr. HOWE. The enrolling clerk of the House?

Mr. STEELE. Yes; it was a House matter then.

Mr. HOWE. When do you say the conferees met the second time?

Mr. STEELE. At 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

Mr. HOWE. And completed their consideration in a half hour?

Mr. STEELE. Within half an hour, yes; roughly speaking.

Mr. HOWE. About how long did the conference report rest in the hands of the clerks of the committee?

Mr. STEELE. They were at it two hours and a half.

Mr. HOWE. The reason I ask is that very shortly after the convening of the session on Saturday Mr. Scott asked the Senate to have patience, and stated "that as soon as the report can be written up by the clerks the conferees on the public buildings bill have agreed on a report, which will be presented." You say it took you two hours and a half?

Mr. STEELE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. To make that report?

Mr. STEELE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Now, after you clerks got through with it the enrolling clerk had to prepare the copy for the printer, and the matter had to be returned from the Printing Office before it could be taken up in the House?

Mr. STEELE. No, I don't know. My connection ends there, but my understanding is that the chairman of the Public Buildings Committee of the House would take that report to the House.

Mr. HOWE. As you prepared it?

Mr. STEELE. As we prepared it and report it to the House. Then it was to be sent over to the Senate, and the Senate would act on that report, and I believe that after that it comes to the enrolling clerk. I am not sure as to the custom.

Mr. HOWE. Have you any knowledge of any delay that occurred in the House after the time that the committee got through with the work?

Mr. STEELE. No.

Mr. HOWE. And the time—

Mr. STEELE. No; I know nothing about it. I do not know what time the bill was reported in the House. I only know that it came over to the Senate somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 o'clock—I think somewhere about 2 o'clock.

Mr. HOWE. Well, that would be three hours and a half from the time the committee finished.

Mr. STEELE. Three hours and a half from the time the committee finished; yes.

Mr. HOWE. Out of which we must deduct the two hours and a half that you were engaged in the work?

Mr. STEELE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. The balance of the time, being an hour, was consumed by the enrolling clerk and the Printing Office?

Captain BRIAN. No, sir.

Mr. STEELE. No, the balance of the hour being consumed, as I understand it, by the House and Senate in adopting this conference report; and, as I understand it, the enrolling clerk does not appear in this until the finished action of the House and Senate was referred to

him. I do not know; I may be wrong on that, but that is my understanding of it.

Captain BRIAN. That is correct.

Mr. STEELE. The House having asked for conference, and so forth, this last conference was in the hands of the House committee entirely. So far as I am personally concerned, the clerk of the House, having charge of that work, could simply have held that thing up until he was absolutely ready to let it come. I was powerless to do anything more than enter a protest. I do not mean to say, nor to intimate, anything of that sort, but it was in his hands. It was in the hands of the House until the House acted, according to the rules of Congress, and the Senate could not finally act on the report, although Senator Scott had his copy of the conference report at 1 o'clock, or five minutes after 1, and so far as he was concerned could have reported the finding of the conference; but they had to wait for the action to come from the House.

Mr. HOWE. Was there any confusion, so far as you know, in the House as to their rights to first submit the second report?

Mr. STEELE. I do not know.

Mr. HOWE. You do not know about that?

Mr. STEELE. No.

Mr. HOWE. So that two hours and a half that you gentlemen consumed in preparing the conference report, in your judgment, was a very proper consumption of time?

Mr. STEELE. Very, very. I would like to explain, simply, that in that two hours and a half we were interrupted by Senators and Representatives coming in. To illustrate: Mr. Tawney, for instance—I presume it is proper to mention names?

Mr. HOWE. Entirely.

Mr. STEELE. Mr. Tawney came in about the Duluth item, if I remember correctly, in the public buildings bill. There was an authorization for several hundred thousand dollars. In the bill carrying an appropriation, there is a much smaller amount, and he came in saying that Duluth had been left out; that Duluth was only in the bill for a few thousand dollars, and it should have been for a larger amount. This required a stoppage of work until we could go over it and hunt it up and show him that the authorization was for a certain amount, and that the appropriation was for another certain amount to begin the work of this authorization.

Then there was the news that came of the \$3,000,000 item being in the public buildings bill, and some person from one of the Senators came in and stopped the work by telling us of the circumstances that had occurred—that this \$3,000,000 item had been found in the public buildings bill, and, afterwards, how it had been traced to the sundry civil bill. That all took a little time. Finally, to be sure we were right, we made our third and final checking of the bill, this check being made with Senator Warren, of our committee, Mr. Bartholdt, of the House committee, and the two clerks. I presume that half an hour or three-quarters of an hour might possibly have been saved in this work of the two clerks had we seen fit to let our first work go through without the checking. To be sure we were right, and without these interruptions, over which we have no control, the work would have been completed sooner.

Mr. HOWE. In other words, you worked with all possible rapidity—

Mr. STEELE. Under the circumstances, with all possible diligence, bearing in mind absolute correctness.

Mr. HOWE. Consistent with exactness?

Mr. STEELE. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. And in the face of more or less interruption?

Mr. STEELE. Yes; that explains it.

Mr. HOWE. What is your opinion, Mr. Steele, about the accusation of delay in the handling of the public buildings bill? Do you feel that—

Mr. STEELE. It is absolutely unfounded; absolutely unfounded. This bill was held by the House for several months, and was sent over to our committee within sixty or seventy-two hours of the closing of the session. Senator Scott had had a personal copy of the bill given to him in confidence, on which I went to work to prepare the data, without which we would simply have been at sea when the committee met.

Mr. HOWE. In other words, you adopted a policy of anticipation?

Mr. STEELE. Yes; we went to work and fixed up a tabulated statement and had that all ready for the committee when they met. It was arranged by States, so that when they picked up the bill each State was before them, and we knew the amount of money that had been asked for in various bills for that State, and the amount of money appropriated by the House, and the action of the Senate, the population of the town, and the postal receipts. All this information was before the committee, so that when they took up the bill they could act with some degree of celerity. Otherwise we would have been up in the air, and I do not know when we would have gotten through.

Senator Scott kept the committee in session all that day (Wednesday) by inviting the members of the committee to lunch with him in his room. They did not even go to dinner downtown, but stopped for half an hour for lunch in his back room, and then went right at it again. The committee completed its work about, I should say, half past 10 or 11 o'clock on that Wednesday evening, and with my messenger I sat over there and worked on the bill. I think it got over to the Government Printing Office sometime after 1 o'clock the next morning. That is the bill that was to be reported to the Senate the next day.

Mr. HOWE. You sent it over, yourself?

Mr. STEELE. Yes; about a little after 1 o'clock, with "must" instructions on it, and the "must" instructions were absolutely followed in this case. The bill was over here next morning promptly on time, so that we could get hold of it and go to work on it in the Senate Chamber.

Mr. HOWE. Is that the only instance in which you individually had any direct dealings with the Printing Office?

Mr. STEELE. No; I had some direct dealings with the Printing Office on this tabulated work that I was getting up.

Mr. HOWE. How did the Printing Office—

Mr. STEELE. Well, I swore at them on Monday. This was sent over on Saturday and instructions were given to have the proof over Sunday morning. The proof was over Sunday morning, and I sent it back Sunday evening, supposing that the Printing Office was working that Sunday night on this and that we would have it back on Monday.

Mr. Turner, the clerk up here, told me afterwards that they were not working on Sunday night; but he called over there and they said they would have the bill over at 10 or 11 o'clock, or some early time—not the bill, but this tabulated work—and it did not come over until late in the afternoon—2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon. But that work did not in any way affect the end of the session work.

Mr. HOWE. I understand.

Mr. STEELE. It was just simply a delay—

Mr. HOWE. It was not bill work?

Mr. STEELE. No; it was not bill work. It was simply preparatory memorandum work—preparatory work. I presume, just as it is in the Senate, a conference report or anything else would be privileged over that, and would go ahead of it, and it would have to take its turn. But I wanted that matter back here on Monday morning so that if we had it Monday morning and got everything all right, that the committee might perhaps meet on Tuesday. It did not get back until Monday afternoon. I do not want to say, now, that the committee would have met on Tuesday, had this matter come over, because there were other conference reports on, and Senator Warren and other members of the committee were on these conferences and had to be absent on Tuesday; so that Wednesday was the first day we could meet.

Mr. HOWE. When you absolutely submitted the bill, however—

Mr. STEELE. That bill came back promptly the next morning.

Mr. HOWE. Did your committee have anything to do with the handling of the supplemental deficiency bill?

Mr. STEELE. Nothing, except that Mr. Cleaves and Mr. Courts followed on their bills the checking that we made of our bill at the same time. They were present and followed on their bill the checking that Senator Warren and Doctor Bartholdt and the two clerks made on the public buildings bill.

Mr. HOWE. Did the necessity of passing that supplemental bill contribute to the delay in the adjournment of Congress, as you understand it?

Mr. STEELE. Well, I would not like to say, because I do not know. I would like to say, too, that while this conference was in session, on Friday afternoon, two members of the conference committee had to leave to go to the Senate to be present when the report of the meat bill was up, Senator Warren and Senator Culberson, Senator Warren being one of the conferees. That added to the delay of the conference committee. They were absent perhaps an hour, and perhaps longer.

Mr. HOWE. Well, really the prime fact I wanted to get out was as to whether there was any undue delay between the moment the conferees finally agreed on the public buildings bill and the moment the report was submitted in the House.

Mr. STEELE. There was no delay, in my opinion, after the conferees agreed on the bill until the conference report was ready for presentation.

Mr. HOWE. There was delay after that, you think?

Mr. STEELE. I do not know whether there was or not. Whether Doctor Bartholdt should have presented that conference report at ten minutes past 1, or twenty minutes past 1, or half past 1, instead of at the hour he did present it, I do not know. There may have been a

privileged question before the House so that Doctor Bartholdt could not get the floor until that question was disposed of. Then this mistake that had occurred in the sundry civil bill was causing more or less—

Mr. HOWE. Consternation!

Mr. STEELE. Confusion and consternation. The Speaker, for instance, sent for Mr. Bartholdt just after we had checked up. How long the Speaker kept Mr. Bartholdt I do not know. There is only one statement, and I do not know whether I should make this statement or not. If you will let the stenographer wait for a second until I have—

Mr. HOWE. Let me say this, that the Committee on Printing has been directed to make inquiry into the alleged cause of delay, and any information you may have, of course, would be very acceptable and very proper.

Mr. STEELE. This is not exactly information, and I can make the statement afterwards, if you think it would help matters any. I do not think that anything that possibly could have been done on the public buildings bill could have saved more than two hours; and the only thing that could have saved that would have been for the conferees to have met after 12 o'clock on Friday night, to agree to their conference report before they went to bed.

Mr. HOWE. There is a limit to human endurance.

Mr. STEELE. The Senators simply said that they were knocked out—tired. They had been up virtually the night before until a very late hour passing the bill, and the night before that they had been in committee until 11 or 12 o'clock, and they were all tired and could not get to sleep. If the conference report had been adopted that night it could not have been presented in the House until 11 o'clock, because the House adjourned until 11. There might have been the possibility of saving the two hours between 11 and 1 o'clock, and that would have cut off two hours, from 10 to 8 in the evening, but that is the only thing that possibly could have been saved in time on this public buildings bill. As you remarked, there is a limit to human endurance.

Mr. HOWE. Senators and Members can retire when clerks and printers can not.

Mr. STEELE. Precisely; and they did not care to go on that night, because they were tired out, and they were, too. They had had an awful time of it.

Mr. HOWE. The committee is very much obliged to you, Mr. Steele.

Captain BRIAN. May I ask Mr. Steele one question about that Sunday job?

Mr. HOWE. Certainly.

Mr. STEELE. Yes.

Captain BRIAN. Was that proof returned to the Office on Sunday?

Mr. STEELE. Sunday evening. Sunday afternoon it was taken over and given by my messenger to the watchman. I called up first and had a good deal of trouble before I could even get anybody. At last central gave me the captain of the watch, and the captain of the watch said some of the printers were at work, and I sent it over to the captain of the watch with instructions written on the outside.

Captain BRIAN. Had the Office been notified that it would be returned?

Mr. STEELE. I do not know about that, sir. I had seen Mr. Turner the day before, Saturday, and told him this was going over, and that I wanted a proof of it so that I could go over the proof on Sunday, and I naturally thought the proof would be returned Sunday, and that of course I would get the matter back to go over it Monday morning. Mr. Turner told me afterwards that if the matter had been made up without a reading of the proof by me it would have been finished Sunday morning and sent over completed Monday, but that the reading of the proof on Sunday, and the force not working, as I understood it, made this delay.

Captain BRIAN. That is the point I want to get out, that it is understood the force of the Office does not work on Sunday.

Mr. STEELE. I did not understand that on Saturday when I spoke to Mr. Turner.

Captain BRIAN. Unless they have previous notice they do not work.

Mr. STEELE. I did not understand that when I went to Mr. Turner. If I had, I would have asked that previous notice be given, so that this proof could have been read over and the corrections made so the matter could be over Monday morning at the committee.

Captain BRIAN. In that case you would have received the printed matter back on Monday morning.

Mr. HOWE. It occurs to me to suggest that instead of swearing at the Printing Office you should have sworn at Mr. Turner.

Mr. STEELE. Well, I don't know. It was simply provoking to have to wait all that time on Monday. I really think that perhaps I was a little to blame myself for not indicating on Saturday evening that I wanted it, but it never entered my head. When printing matter went over, with the proof to be read Sunday morning, it never entered my head that there would be any question but that it would go back at once, as soon as it was read, because otherwise it would have to wait until Monday morning.

Captain BRIAN. But there was nothing to show whether you were going to complete the proof on Sunday or Monday.

Mr. STEELE. I understand.

Mr. HOWE. You may remember, Captain Brian, that yesterday Mr. Platt testified that he received the proof of the general deficiency bill, I think it was, at a time somewhat after 9 o'clock on the morning of Friday. I notice that your Office has testified to having sent that proof to Mr. Platt at half-past 8, and I would like to clear that discrepancy up, if possible.

Captain BRIAN. My recollection is that Mr. Platt also testified the Office informed him that the proof had been sent.

Mr. HOWE. What do you mean? I do not quite understand you.

Captain BRIAN. That the Office had notified Mr. Platt over the telephone that the proof had left our Office.

Mr. HOWE. At half-past 8?

Captain BRIAN. At half-past 8, or about that time. When Mr. Platt asked for it he was told that the proof had been sent.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Platt remarked, I believe, that he questioned the messenger when he made delivery of the proof as to why it had taken him so long, and the messenger said he had to go to the House.

Captain BRIAN. Yes; Mr. Platt was aware that the messenger had left our Office in time to be there long before, and when the messenger

did arrive he asked him where he had been and what had delayed him so long; and he said that he had taken some matter over to the House instead of coming to Mr. Platt first.

Mr. HOWE. You have pronounced some high encomiums upon the messenger force of your Office, and I would like to ascertain just why it took the messenger so long to make the delivery in this instance.

Mr. STEELE. May I say something right here?

Mr. HOWE. Certainly.

Mr. STEELE. I want to say that this proof that was sent back on Sunday to us was brought here early Sunday morning, but did not reach us until 11 or 12 o'clock because it had been taken and left over with the House people, the House Public Buildings and Grounds Committee. I could not get the Printing Office in any way, and called up Mr. Turner at his private residence, and I was just getting ready then to try and hunt up this copy and try to get in touch with it, when Mr. Miller of the House committee sent the stuff over and said it had been left there in the morning by the messenger.

Mr. HOWE. That is, it was misdelivered?

Mr. STEELE. It was a misdelivery on the part of the messenger on that Sunday morning.

Mr. HOWE. I wonder if it was a misdelivery by the messenger or a misdirection on the part of the Printing Office?

Mr. STEELE. I do not know about that.

Mr. HOWE. You do not recall how the matter was directed?

Mr. STEELE. No.

Mr. HOWE. Is your messenger here, Captain Brian?

Captain BRIAN. We have the messenger, the one we suppose delivered it. He said he never had any such conversation with Mr. Platt, and that he always goes to Mr. Platt first.

Mr. HOWE. Is there any explanation available as to the cause of the delay in making delivery of this proof?

Captain BRIAN. The only reason for the delay is what Mr. Platt gave, that the messenger had several packages, and that he went to other places.

Mr. HOWE. The Capitol is a large building, and it takes some time to walk from one end of it to the other.

Captain BRIAN. That is right. We claim that even at the time Mr. Platt got that, he got his proof back and the copy over to the House in plenty of time—about the time the House met.

Mr. HOWE. Yes; this inquiry is just incidental.

Mr. YOUNG. You know the messenger who brought that up is what we call a wagon messenger, and not a bicycle messenger. A bicycle messenger could handle the stuff and get up here inside of six or seven or eight minutes; but in the case of the wagon, you have got to take the package down to the wagon, put it in the wagon, and get it started, and I guess it would take fifteen minutes before the wagon would get up here.

Mr. HOWE. If this was a wagon delivery, it is presumable that he had a good many deliveries?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, four or five of them; which he has every morning.

Mr. HOWE. I think probably that accounts for the delay, if there was any.

Mr. YOUNG. That is done every morning.

Mr. HOWE. You make it a practice, do you, to make your early morning deliveries by wagon rather than by bicycle messenger?

Mr. YOUNG. They are generally larger bundles that are taken up, and if there is one that is to come here he takes up everything that goes.

Mr. HOWE. That probably accounts for it.

Captain BRIAN. I want to call attention to this public buildings bill, about which the gentleman just testified. The conferees met at 10 o'clock and occupied about 30 minutes, and the clerks were then engaged in preparing the work for two hours and a half, which would bring the time up to 1 o'clock before it possibly could have been presented in either House.

Mr. HOWE. Yes; I understand that.

Captain BRIAN. But the Senate had been expecting it all the morning, and had been getting impatient about it, as the Record shows; and after that time they kept on getting impatient.

(At this point Mr. William Douglass entered the room.)

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Howe, this is the bicycle messenger, Mr. Douglass, who was transferred, or, rather, resigned, from the Office, as I told you. If you have any questions to ask him, he is perfectly willing to testify.

Mr. HOWE. What connection did he have with these deliveries in question?

Mr. YOUNG. He is the one who was up here in the morning and looked up the messenger who drove the wagon. I think you are the one, are you not, who came up to look up the messenger who had the package for Mr. Platt?

Mr. DOUGLASS. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Platt had telephoned over expressing anxiety about it?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes; that is the same thing we were talking about a minute ago.

Mr. HOWE. Yes; but Mr. Douglass did not have the delivery of the package himself?

Mr. DOUGLASS. Well, there was one package that I took from the messenger and took over to Mr. Platt, and if that is the one you are referring to, I met the messenger coming up the steps and took the package from him and gave it to Mr. Platt.

Mr. HOWE. Did the wagon messenger have quite a number of deliveries to make?

Mr. DOUGLASS. He had a big bundle of stuff.

Mr. HOWE. And your coming over was to accomplish an early delivery of this particular package to Mr. Platt?

Mr. DOUGLASS. Yes.

Mr. HOWE. Do you remember just when you made the delivery to Mr. Platt, or approximately when you made it?

Mr. DOUGLASS. No, I can not say. It was early in the morning, though.

Mr. HOWE. To refresh your memory, Mr. Platt testifies that delivery was made to him about half past 9 in the morning. Does that accord with your recollection?

Mr. DOUGLASS. I should think it would be somewhere along about that time.

Mr. HOWE. But you say, Captain Brian, that the proof left your Office about 8.30?

Captain BRIAN. 8.30; yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Young, how many bicycle messengers have you on your staff there?

Mr. YOUNG. Four, with two extras that can be called on at any time.

Mr. HOWE. But it does not always follow that you have a messenger accessible at a moment's notice?

Mr. YOUNG. No, sir; and it very often happens that we have no messenger there whatever. Our calls are so swift and furious that we have to scurry around to find someone else to take a package.

Mr. HOWE. And he would have to walk, I suppose, or ride?

Mr. YOUNG. We generally manage to get him away in some way in a hurry. The case has got to be met as it comes. It does not happen very often, but when it does come we have just got to make the best provision we can.

Captain BRIAN. Does it occur, Mr. Young, that these messengers are all at the Capitol at the same time, or most of them?

Mr. YOUNG. Most of them; yes, sir. It happens that way very often, and between those who are here waiting for something, and those who are being sent up with something that has been telephoned for, and those who are on the way with something that legitimately comes here through the regular routine of business, it very often happens that there is no one there. I have had it occur that the Public Printer would send down and ask me to let him have a messenger, and it would happen that we would probably have to wait a few minutes, because our messengers were all employed on hurried work.

Mr. HOWE. Has it been your experience that your messengers, who are sent up here on call to serve Congress, are detained here frequently?

Mr. YOUNG. Well, it happens sometimes; yes, sir. I think Mr. Smith can testify as to that point better than I can.

Mr. HOWE. They report to you, do they not, Mr. Smith?

Mr. W. A. SMITH. Sometimes they do. Mr. Douglass, here, made my desk his headquarters, and Mr. Platt frequently telephoned and so did Mr. Turner to send a messenger over. He would wait there for orders, and he would go to Mr. McKenney's every few minutes when Mr. McKenney would have something that he wanted to send down. About the Capitol here they always depended on our messenger service for getting their work down. It seems to me that they should have messengers of their own.

Mr. YOUNG. That is a fact.

Mr. SMITH. They not only call on our messengers to carry down hurried bills and reports and things of that kind, but Mr. Turner calls on our wagon messenger to come there and carry down his binding to the Printing Office. Our people are always busy, and it takes a little time; but that is set aside until we get time to do it.

Mr. HOWE. Does not the House post-office have bicycle messengers, like the Senate post-office?

Mr. SMITH. No, sir; the Doorkeeper of the House has a bicycle messenger, I think.

Captain BRIAN. Mr. Young, is it not a fact that our messengers have to do messenger work for both ends?

Mr. YOUNG. Absolutely. All of the Congressional work is handled by our messengers.

Captain BRIAN. When they have a package to send down, instead of sending it by their messenger, they send for our messenger to get it and take it down.

Mr. YOUNG. I can illustrate that by citing one case where Mr. Shuey asked me how long it would take to give him the return proof on 17 lines of insert in a certain speech. I told him I could do it inside of half an hour. Then he said, "Will you please send me a messenger?" I said, "Now, Mr. Shuey, I will have to go back on what I have said. If I have to send a messenger to you and have the messenger come back here, there is too much time consumed, and I would sooner not make the promise of half an hour, but I will let you have it as soon as I possibly can." That was one of the cases where I could make a promise on the actual time that would be consumed from the time I received the copy, but I caught myself, and I saw that there might be a point raised on my promise, on account of the time that was consumed by the messenger service.

Mr. HOWE. Are your messengers engaged on department work as well as Congressional work?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWE. Do the Departments avail themselves of the services of your messengers? Do they call upon you occasionally for them?

Mr. YOUNG. They ask for the service, and if we can accommodate them we do. If not, we tell them there is no messenger available at the time, and they look up someone else; but the Office generally tries to facilitate the work that is in a hurry as much as possible, always bearing in mind that Congressional work takes precedence over any department work.

Mr. HOWE. I have been given to understand that Mr. Parkinson, the reading clerk of the Senate, could throw some light on the delay, if any, which occurred between the time that the conferees on the public buildings bill completed their labors and the time that the conference report was submitted to the House, regarding which I have been trying to elicit testimony. I will write Mr. Parkinson and see if he can clear up the situation.

I see that we have no other testimony available except such as may be secured by correspondence already had or hereafter to be had. We will therefore adjourn.

The committee (at 12.15 o'clock p. m.) adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7, 1906.

MR. ALBERT H. HOWE,

Chief Clerk Committee on Printing,

United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Mr. Charles A. Stillings, Public Printer, requests of me, his attending physician, permission to appear before your committee at the Government Printing Office, on Monday, for two hours, that he can testify before you.

I regret that the permission can not be safely granted.

The patient's left foot is yet greatly swollen, the iliac veins are inflamed, and some of the abdominal veins are involved. His heart is growing much stronger and the nerve centers are calmer.

If Mr. Stillings had been obedient to his physician's advice and had not lately returned to duty, against orders, he would now be in better condition.

If the patient is kept quiet for another ten days, positive assurance can be given of complete restoration to health, and by the first of August he will be wholly safe.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

RUFUS CHOATE, M. D.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,

AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,

July 9, 1906.

Mr. C. R. McKENNEY,

North St. Paul, Minn.

MY DEAR SIR: As you doubtless are aware, the Senate Committee on Printing, by a resolution of the Senate dated June 30, 1906, is directed to inquire into the reasons for the delay in the Government Printing Office in sending to the Senate, especially in the last days of the session, printed copies of bills and joint resolutions pending and awaiting action on the part of Congress. Acting under instructions from the Committee on Printing I am in this city conducting an investigation into the alleged delays at the Government Printing Office.

During the progress of the hearings that have been held statements alleged to have been made by you, tending to exonerate the Printing Office from blame, appear in the testimony of some of the Printing Office officials. I write to ask whether you will favor this committee with a first-hand expression on the subject, in order that the information available for the use of the committee in formulating its report may be as nearly accurate as possible. An expression of your general experience in dealing with the Printing Office in the matter of getting quick returns would be of interest; also some specific information touching upon the following points would be useful:

First, the public buildings bill; the information before me would appear to show that this bill passed the Senate, with amendments, on the night of Thursday, June 28; the amendments engrossed and the bill with amendments messaged to the House on the morning of Friday, June 29, between 11 and 12 o'clock. It is desired to know just when this bill reached the enrolling room of the House, after the two conference reports had been agreed to, the hour copy was prepared and sent to the Printing Office, and the hour of the return of proof to you.

Second. The general deficiency bill appears to have passed the Senate, with amendments, about 10 o'clock on the night of Thursday, June 28; the amendments engrossed, and the bill with amendments messaged to the House on the afternoon of Friday, June 29. Will you kindly state what, if any, delays this bill met with in the House in line with the suggestions contained in the preceding subject-matter?

I should also be pleased if you could afford this committee any other information which in your judgment would tend to place the responsibility for the alleged delays comprehended in the resolution where it belongs.

Yours, very truly,

A. H. HOWE,

Clerk Committee on Printing.

NORTH ST. PAUL, MINN., *July 12, 1906.*

Mr. A. H. HOWE.

Clerk Committee on Printing, U. S. Senate.

MY DEAR SIR: Yours of even date received. The public buildings bill reached me about 2.30 o'clock p. m., June 30, I think, but I paid no attention to time, and it may have been an hour before or an hour later. The bill was given immediate attention, and it was sent to the Printing Office as soon as possible; was returned to me for comparison with the original papers without unnecessary delay. Corrections were made on some sheets, which were sent to the Printing Office and corrected sheets returned to me.

When I had completed reading the bill every sheet sent to the Printing Office for correction had been returned, thus showing the efficiency and promptness of the bill and messenger forces of the Printing Office. The bill was then turned over to the Committee on Enrolled Bills for comparison. As every word, punctuation mark, and even capital letters are read aloud in the comparison, much time is of necessity consumed, especially in reading large sheets of parchment, each equal to two sheets of an engrossed bill. Then came the bill, for engrossment and enrollment, authorizing the expenditure of money for various public buildings, which went through the same process, as every bill does in engrossment and enrollment. There was no unnecessary delay with either of these bills, the deficiency bill, or other bills at any time during the session of the Fifty-ninth Congress to cause censure or even unfavorable comment as far as the Printing Office is concerned with my work.

One great trouble with which I have to contend is to convince some Senators and many Congressmen that when a bill passes both Houses it is not ready by any means to be sent to the President. The fact is that actual work in perfecting it only begins, as it must be prepared by the enrolling clerk, and with the amendments, if any, sent to the Printing Office (the distance between the Capitol and Printing Office is great) for proof, returned to the enrolling clerk, read, sent back, to be returned on parchment for another reading by the enrolling clerk. If errors are found on one or more sheets, those sheets are returned for correction and reprinting.

When the corrections are all made the parchment, with the original papers—the engrossed copy, the amendments, and the conference report—are all turned over to the Committee on Enrolled Bills, which committee repeat the work of the enrolling clerk and his assistant. If found correct, the bill is then taken to the Speaker of the House for his signature—possibly signed within an hour, probably not for several hours. Some time within the next twelve or fourteen hours it is taken to the Senate for the signature of the Vice-President, the Committee on Enrolled Bills of the Senate, where the number and title are entered in a book kept for that purpose, then back to the Committee on Enrolled Bills of the House, and later it is taken to the White House.

The committee clerks on Appropriations and Naval Affairs are thoroughly posted on conference reports. Few other committees are so well equipped, which entails additional work on the enrolling clerk, anxiety as to the outcome, and oftentimes vexatious delays. Personally I was nearly worn-out. The forty-eight hours preceding adjournment I did not have one minute's sleep, did not have one mouthful to

eat from one breakfast until another, and I think the Printing Office bill force suffered an equally strenuous time. They are heroes, every one of them.

I have been enrolling clerk of the House in every Republican Congress since and including the Forty-seventh Congress, and with the great increase in the volume of work, and consequent added responsibility from year to year, I often wonder how I have been able to withstand the strain incident to the last week of each expiring Congress.

Very sincerely, yours,

C. R. MCKENNEY,
Enrolling Clerk House of Representatives.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,
July 31, 1906.

Mr. C. R. MCKENNEY,
Office of the Sentinel, North St. Paul, Minn.

MY DEAR SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your favor of July 12. This committee thanks you for the information you impart.

Very truly, yours,

A. H. HOWE.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,
July 11, 1906.

Mr. M. E. MATLACK,
Printing Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Under instructions of the Senate Committee on Printing and in pursuance of the resolution of the Senate dated June 30, 1906, directing this committee to inquire into the reasons for the delay in the Government Printing Office in sending to the Senate, especially in the last days of the session, printed copies of bills and joint resolutions pending and awaiting action on the part of Congress, I am engaged in an investigation tending to develop all the facts contemplated in the aforesaid resolution. Realizing it will be possible for you to enlighten the committee, I write to ask you to favor it with such information as you may be able to impart respecting the alleged delays in the Government Printing Office in returning work to Congress. Your impressions concerning especially the public buildings bill and the general deficiency bill, which appear to have been the chief causes of irritation, will be useful.

Will you kindly write me on the subject at your early convenience.

Yours, very truly,

A. H. HOWE,
Clerk of Printing Record.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
 AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,
July 31, 1906.

Mr. M. E. MATLACK,
Printing Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. MATLACK: This committee would appreciate an early reply to its letter of July 13, concerning alleged delays in the handling of certain bills during the closing days of Congress.

Very truly, yours,

A. H. HOWE,
Clerk of Printing Records.

MOUNT HOLLY, N. J., *July 31, 1906.*

Mr. A. H. HOWE,
Clerk of Printing Records,
U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 11th instant received asking for my impressions concerning alleged delays in the Government Printing Office in returning work to Congress. The cause of my delay in replying to your letter is that I have been away from home camping and have just returned.

In reply to your request I have to say that there was a general delay all through the session on the part of the Government Printing Office in returning work to Congress such as bills, resolutions, etc., that came to me.

No complaint came to me, however, by any Member of Congress about such delay, but Mr. David Moore, the distributing clerk of the House, who carries the printed bills, resolutions, etc., from me to the different House committees, was always complaining to me about such delays, saying that the members of the different committees were condemning him for such delay.

I have from time to time asked the Government Printing Office over my phone the cause of such delay, and the answer has been that they would get the work to me as soon as it was printed.

I have no particular recollection about the delay in returning the public buildings bill and the general deficiency bill.

If your committee desires to interrogate me further, I will be glad to appear before them if properly notified to do so.

Respectfully, yours,

M. E. MATLACK,
Printing and Bill Clerk, House of Representatives.

902 WASHINGTON STREET, CAPE MAY, N. J.

Mr. A. H. HOWE:

Yours of July 31 last past just received. On that date I sent to you my reply to your letter of July 13 last past. I address the letter to you at the U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C. Hope it has been forwarded ere this. Please let me know whether or not you receive it.

Very truly, yours,

M. E. MATLACK,
Bill and Printing Clerk, House of Representatives.

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,
August 8, 1906.

Mr. M. E. MATLACK,
*902 Washington Street,
Cape May, New Jersey.*

DEAR MR. MATLACK: I take pleasure in advising you, in response to your recent letter, that your previous communication, replying to the inquiry of this committee, came duly to hand, for which accept thanks.

Very truly yours,

A. H. HOWE, *Clerk.*

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,
August 3, 1906.

Hon. CHARLES A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. STILLINGS: To the letter of this committee dated July 11, addressed to Mr. M. E. Matlack, printing and bill clerk of the House of Representatives, soliciting an expression from him respecting the alleged delays in the Government Printing Office in returning work to Congress, the attached reply is received. My policy in the conduct of the investigation provided under Senate resolution No. 175, first session Fifty-ninth Congress, has been to afford opportunity for both sides to be heard, and, in pursuance of this policy, I transmit to you Mr. Matlack's letter, with request that the same be returned with your answer, in order that both may appear in the records of the committee's investigation.

Very truly yours,

A. H. HOWE, *Clerk.*

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PRINTER,
Washington, D. C., August 10, 1906.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your communication of August 3 inclosing a communication dated July 31 from M. E. Matlack, printing and bill clerk, House of Representatives, which I have read with interest.

It is not possible for any printing office having the extreme pressure on it which the Government Printing Office has to contend with to always deliver every order right on the minute and to suit all of its various customers.

Mr. Matlack's communication seems to be a general complaint which lacks any specific statements whereby I could base such future action as appears to be necessary to avoid the conditions complained of.

In view of the tremendous pressure put upon this Office during the session of Congress just past, and the fact that the output of printed matter relative to Senate and House bills, resolutions, reports, etc., averaged at least 5 per cent more for this one session of Congress than for the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress, it would be surprising indeed if here and there the Government Printing Office was not somewhat delayed in completing all of its orders.

It must not be forgotten that this Office had no knowledge of the extra heavy pressure likely to be put upon it, and therefore was not in the position of a private contractor with a specific amount of work to be produced, thus enabling him to make ample provision for the same.

Therefore, this Office has had to accommodate itself to the needs of Congress, but without a reasonable knowledge of just how long the extreme pressure was to continue; hence some allowance should be made along these lines, not to excuse delays (if there were any), but to recognize the difficulty of always foreseeing just what demands would be made upon it.

I inclose herewith statements relative to this matter, as follows:

First. Communication dated August 6, signed by Adam Brandt, assistant foreman folding division.

Second. Communication dated August 6, signed by Charles E. Young, foreman of printing.

Third. Communication dated August 8, signed by H. T. Brian, chief clerk.

Very respectfully, yours,

CHAS. A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer.

ALBERT H. HOWE, Esq.,
Clerk, Committee on Printing,
United States Senate,
49 Broadway, New York City.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., August 6, 1906.

DEAR SIR: The only time I remember a delay in delivering bills and resolutions to Congress is when Congress convened. From December 4 to December 21 the House introduced 10,061 bills and 189 resolutions. The Senate introduced 2,432 bills and 53 resolutions, making 12,842 bills and resolutions for both Houses in sixteen working days, averaging 803 bills per day, but will say that the bills, resolutions, and reports, etc., were delivered from the folding room to the Capitol as fast as received. Will also say that there has been a delay in delivering bills and resolutions to Congress at the beginning of every Congress, on account of the large number of bills and resolutions introduced in the first few days.

I do not remember any delay after the first rush was over.

Respectfully,

ADAM BRANDT.

MR. CHAS. E. YOUNG, *Foreman of Printing.*

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE FOREMAN OF PRINTING,
Washington, D. C., August 6, 1906.

DEAR SIR: I have read the letter written by Mr. M. E. Matlack, House printing and bill clerk, and must say that I can not see where any reasonable complaint can be made as to the prompt delivery of bills, resolutions, etc., but inasmuch as such complaint has been made I will try to show when and how some of the minor bills may not have been received as early as desired.

While this office is admirably equipped for almost every emergency, it must be borne in mind that there are times when it is impossible to get all of the work to the Capitol in the early morning hours. For instance, there may be two or three large appropriation bills with accompanying hearings and reports, which are ready to report and which must be gotten out of the way before the smaller and minor bills are taken up.

If this were not done the action to be taken on these most important supply bills would be delayed, and Congress would receive bills which probably would not be taken up for months.

Then again there are nights when 700 or 800 bills and probably 200 or 300 reports, besides five or six committee hearings, are received. The hearings as a general thing are wanted the next morning at 9 or 10 o'clock so as to be used in committee meetings, and so the last bills on such days may probably not be delivered before 11 or 12 o'clock. There has absolutely been no more delay at this session than any other, and there never is a delay unless the volume of work is so great that with all of our equipment it is an impossibility to handle it in so short a time.

The volume of work handled during the last session of Congress was gotten out as expeditiously as during any previous session, and the excellent judgment displayed on particularly heavy nights in selecting those bills, reports, hearings, etc., which were most likely to be called up in either House or in committee rooms and were consequently the most important, is highly commendable.

However, I can assure you that during the next and following sessions everything possible will be done to try to perfect a system of delivery to such an extent that no fault may be found in any quarter.

I inclose herewith a letter from Mr. Adam Brandt, who has charge of the delivery of bills and documents.

Hoping that I may not have trespassed too much on your valuable time, I remain,

Yours, very respectfully,

CHAS. E. YOUNG,
Foreman of Printing.

HON. CHAS. A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer, Washington, D. C.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PRINTER,
Washington, D. C., August 8, 1906.

SIR: Referring to the attached letter from M. E. Matlack, printing and bill clerk, House of Representatives, regarding the question of delays in printing bills, etc., in the Government Printing Office, I wish to state that I was in very close touch with the printing of Congress during the last session, and have looked into the matter since the receipt of Mr. Matlack's letter and can not see where there was any cause for complaint.

The first few days of the session of Congress there were introduced nearly 13,000 bills and resolutions, making an average of over 800 bills per day. Of course it would tax even the capacity of this office to deliver all of those bills the first thing each and every morning.

It is understood that there were more bills, resolutions, documents, and reports printed the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress than there were during the three sessions of the Fifty-eighth Congress combined, as the accompanying statement will show.

The arrangement which you have made for insuring prompt delivery of the work of the next session of Congress is such that there need not be any delay, even with such a great amount of work as there was during the last session.

Very truly, yours,

H. T. BRIAN,
Chief Clerk.

Hon. CHAS. A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer, Washington, D. C.

Comparative statement—Bills, resolutions, laws, reports, and daily Record, Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses.

	Fifty-ninth Congress, first session.	Fifty-eighth Congress, first, second, and third sessions.
Senate concurrent resolutions	35	112
Senate resolutions	177	305
Senate joint resolutions	87	115
Senate bills	6,556	7,295
House concurrent resolutions	43	83
House resolutions	631	550
House joint resolutions	189	231
House bills	20,518	19,209
Reported, referred, and engrossed bills	28,236	27,903
Enrolled bills	4,258	4,139
Total bills	53,976	49,708
Laws	4,043	4,039
Reports (Senate and House)	9,522	9,306
Daily Record, including indexes, pages	15,930	13,765

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,

July 10, 1906.

Mr. B. S. PLATT, *The Roanoke, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. PLATT: I am in this city conducting an investigation for the Committee on Printing in pursuance of the resolution of the Senate directing this committee to inquire into the delays at the Printing Office during the last days of the recently expired session. I find it necessary, in order to complete some of the links in the evidence, to question you. I have delayed my departure from Washington solely because of your absence and my inability to get into communication with you. I understand you are expected back to-morrow night. Please hold yourself in readiness to see me without fail on Thursday morning.

Yours, very truly,

A. H. HOWE,
Clerk of Printing Records.

Copy mailed to the Secretary's office, Senate.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,

July 13, 1906.

MR. ALFRED C. PARKINSON,

Office of the Secretary, United States Senate.

DEAR MR. PARKINSON: I have been in Washington for over a week, by direction of the Committee on Printing, conducting an investigation as provided in Senator Hale's resolution directing the Committee on Printing to inquire into the delays in the Printing Office, etc. I have sought to trace, in so far as possible, all the steps in the handling of the general deficiency bill and the public buildings bill, those being the measures around which criticism centered. I discovered that in the handling of the public buildings bill considerable time elapsed between the moment that the conferees finally agreed on the second conference report and the moment it was actually submitted in the House.

There is a well-defined rumor that confusion existed in the minds of those having charge of the House proceedings as to the right of the House to first submit the report, and that what occurred was that the House waited quite a while for the Senate to act on the report, while the Senate was waiting, as it rightfully should, for the House to act, and that this confusion would account for at least a brief element of delay.

Your duties carried you over to the House frequently that day, and it is conceivable you may have some cognizance of the situation. Will you oblige me by giving me your recollection of what happened, especially as to the matter of confusion, if any, which will enable this committee to arrive at some reasonably accurate conclusion as to whether an improper amount of time was consumed in the handling of the public buildings bill?

Very truly, yours,

A. H. HOWE,
Clerk, Committee on Printing.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,

July 31, 1906.

HON. ALFRED C. PARKINSON,

*Office of the Secretary, United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.*

DEAR GENERAL PARKINSON: This committee would appreciate an early reply to its letter of July 13, concerning alleged delays in the handling of certain bills during the closing days of Congress.

Very truly, yours,

A. H. HOWE,
Clerk of Printing Records.

COLUMBUS, WIS., *August 3, 1906.*

(Received August 8, 1906.)

A. H. HOWE, Esq.,

*Clerk, Committee on Printing,
United States Senate.*

MY DEAR MR. HOWE: I am in receipt of your favor of July 31, ultimo, asking for a reply to your former letter under date of July 13,

in which you ask for any information I am able to give touching the matter of confusion and delay in handling certain bills, notably the omnibus public buildings bill and the general deficiency bill, during the closing hours of the late session.

Your letter of July 13 did not reach me till after the lapse of a week or ten days, owing to my absence from home, and I, thoughtlessly perhaps, concluded that it was too late for a reply. However, I am afraid, even now, I am unable to give you any definite information that will aid your investigation.

I recall distinctly the delay on the part of the House to *first* submit its second report of the committee of conference on the public building bill. The House authorities labored under erroneous impression that the Senate conferees should submit their report *first*.

At the suggestion of Mr. McDonald and Mr. Platt, made in the presence and with the acquiescence of, I think, Senator Hale or some other excellent authority on the matter of conference reports, I told the House people at least twice that the Senate was waiting for the House conferees to make their report *first*, which they finally did, but after a wait and delay of an hour or more. I was at the time cognizant of other delays and the causes at the House end, but was too busy with my own cares and duties to note them and fix them in my mind. In a matter of this kind one ought to speak definitely and specifically, or not at all.

As to delays in printing, generally, I have only this to say: Mr. Gilfry and myself were often greatly annoyed and inconvenienced by our inability to get what seemed to us a proper and speedy response to our *rush* orders for the printing of bills and amendments in emergency cases. I never could understand (and I have had some experience with printing offices) why it should take the greatest printing establishment in the world from three hours to a half-day to print and send up to the Senate a bill or amendment of less than a page of matter. A weekly country printing outfit would do this work more expeditiously.

Without the records before me I am unable to specify particular instances of these shortcomings, but I am sure my desk mates, Messrs. Gilfry, Rose, and McDonald, will confirm what I say. Such annoyances are generally not serious, but under imaginable conditions might readily and grievously become so. A word from the proper authority to the Public Printer would doubtless bring the needed remedy.

Regretting my inability to give you more definite information pertaining to the subject of your inquiry, I am,

Yours, truly,

A. C. PARKINSON.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

August 7, 1906.

Gen. A. C. PARKINSON,
Columbus Wis.

DEAR GENERAL PARKINSON: I write to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of August 3, 1906, in reply to communications of this committee regarding matters of delays in completing the work of the last session of Congress. The same will be made a part of the official record of this committee, and the Public Printer will be given an

opportunity, under its policy of hearing both sides, to reply to your strictures upon that Office. Since you refer to Mr. McDonald as being one of those who would confirm your criticisms of the Government Printing Office, I may as well say that Mr. McDonald's statements to me did not partake of serious criticism of the Government Printing Office.

Very truly, yours,

A. H. HOWE.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,

August 7, 1906.

The PUBLIC PRINTER,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: You will, if you please, take note of the inclosed letter from Gen. A. C. Parkinson, containing severe criticism of the work of the Government Printing Office, and return the same to me with any statements you may see fit to make in contradiction or affirmation of his assertions, in order that both may appear in the record of the investigation conducted under the provisions of Senate resolution No. 175, first session, Fifty-ninth Congress.

Respectfully,

A. H. HOWE, *Clerk.*

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PRINTER,
Washington, D. C., August 10, 1906.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your communication of August 7, inclosing a letter dated August 3 from Gen. A. C. Parkinson, containing severe criticism of the work of the Government Printing Office.

In reply thereto it appears to me that General Parkinson is not specific enough in his assertions regarding delays at the Government Printing Office.

I inclose herewith statements relative to this matter, as follows:

First, communication dated August 8, signed by Joseph Dierken and T. Frank Morgan.

Second, communication dated August 9, signed by Charles E. Young, foreman of printing.

Third, communication dated August 10, signed by H. T. Brian, chief clerk.

Briefly, it appears to me that unless General Parkinson can cite specific instances which have come to his personal knowledge, wherein the Government Printing Office has failed to meet the requirements of Congress, that there is no point at which I can take up his criticism with a view to remedying the conditions he complains of.

I have already taken steps to safeguard Congressional work during the next session of Congress, which I think will, if possible, be more effective than methods prevailing heretofore; although I freely admit that this office gives the promptest and most intelligent service of any printing office of which I have any knowledge:

Very respectfully yours,

CHAS. A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer.

ALBERT H. HOWE, Esq.,
Clerk, Committee on Printing, U. S. Senate,
49 Broadway, New York.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE FOREMAN OF PRINTING,
Washington, D. C., August 8, 1906.

DEAR SIR: In reference to letter of Gen. A. C. Parkinson, will state that at no time has there been any delay in handling rush bills passing through our hands. On the contrary, every effort is always made to facilitate bill printing. We have time without number delivered page bills within one-half an hour. We can recall no instance of a rush bill coming from the Senate when any delay occurred at this end of the line. Of course where copy is furnished, interlined, with marginal notes, and with streamers pasted thereon, it necessarily consumes time and delay.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH DIERKEN.
T. FRANK MORGAN.

Mr. CHARLES E. YOUNG,
Foreman of Printing.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE FOREMAN OF PRINTING,
Washington, D. C., August 9, 1906.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith a letter in reference to the communication from Gen. A. C. Parkinson, which is signed by Messrs. Joseph Dierken and T. Frank Morgan, the two parties who are in immediate charge of the bills which are received in the daytime and which are evidently meant by Mr. Parkinson in his letter. In the absence of any particular bill or occasion being cited it is, of course, impossible to defend this Office, only in a general way, against such criticism as is made in the above-mentioned letter.

If a bill is received at the Government Printing Office plainly marked "Rush," it is immediately put in hand and returned to the Capitol at the earliest possible moment.

Every effort is made to comply with the wants and wishes of all of the officials at the Capitol, and I know of no instance where all hands did not give their best efforts in order to expedite the work of Congress.

Yours, very truly,

CHAS. E. YOUNG,
Foreman of Printing.

Hon. CHAS. A. STILLINGS,
Public Printer.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PRINTER,
Washington, D. C., August 10, 1906.

SIR: Referring to the attached letter, I desire to state I have no idea to what General Parkinson refers when he says that it takes from three hours to one-half a day to print a bill. Unless there is some specific case mentioned I would not know how to answer his assertion, but I do know that day in and day out bills come down from the Senate and House that are returned inside of an hour.

You have already directed that exact time be kept of all bills and documents from Congress next session, and there can be no case where if a delay does occur it can not be accounted for immediately.

Very truly, yours,

H. T. BRIAN, *Chief Clerk.*

Hon. CHAS. A. STILLINGS,

Public Printer, Washington D. C.

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,

AT 49 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY,

July 30, 1906.

Hon. CHARLES A. STILLINGS,

Public Printer, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. STILLINGS: Captain Brian, in his testimony before the Senate Committee on Printing, on page 3 GU a, of the galley proof, asked permission to submit the rules governing the enrolling force of the Senate in their handling of copy and proof. I shall be glad to have a copy of the aforesaid rules to be made a part of the record of the investigation. The rules in question were drafted by Mr. B. S. Platt and revised by Captain Brian.

Very truly yours,

A. H. HOWE.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PRINTER.

Washington, D. C., July 31, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. HOWE: In compliance with the request contained in your favor of July 30, I inclose herewith copy of authority for engrossing and enrolling bills, together with the rules promulgated by the Joint Committee on Printing.

Very truly, yours,

CHAS. A. STILLINGS,

Public Printer.

Mr. A. H. HOWE,

Clerk, Committee on Printing, United States Senate.

This is the authority under which the Government Printing Office prints engrossed and enrolled bills:

That beginning with the first day of the regular session of the Fifty-third Congress, to wit: the first Monday in December, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, in lieu of being engrossed, every bill and joint resolution in each House of Congress at the stage of the consideration at which a bill or joint resolution is at present engrossed, shall be printed, and such printed copy shall take the place of what is now known as, and shall be called the engrossed bill or resolution as the case may be, and it shall be dealt with in the same manner as engrossed bills and joint resolutions are dealt with at present, and shall be sent in printed form, after passing, to the other House, and in that form shall be dealt with by that House, and its officers in the same manner in which engrossed bills, and joint resolutions are now dealt with.

Resolved, That when such bill, or joint resolution shall have passed both Houses, it shall be printed on parchment, which print shall be in lieu of what is now known as, and shall be called, the enrolled bill, or joint resolution, as the case may be, and shall be dealt with in the same manner in which enrolled bills, and joint resolutions are now dealt with.

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Printing is hereby charged with the duty of having the foregoing resolutions properly executed, and is empowered to take such steps as may be necessary to carry them into effect, and provide for the speedy execution of the printing herein contemplated.—*House of Representatives, Oct. 26, 1893, Senate, Nov. 1, 1893.*

[The matter in small type is not a part of the rules and was inserted at this Office.]

In carrying out the foregoing concurrent resolution, passed by both Houses of Congress, it is necessary that some instructions be promulgated for the guidance of the Public Printer and the enrolling clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives.

After a bill or joint resolution is passed by either House, the enrolling clerks of the respective Houses will see to it that the copy of such bill or joint resolution and amendments thereto, and messages accompanying the same, is properly prepared, using or writing on one side of the paper only, with riders and amendments so attached as to permit the copy to be divided into suitable "takes" for the printer, and without unnecessary delay transmitted to the Public Printer, who will immediately have the same put in type (see Sample A) [Sample A shows the type of a regular bill page set in Bruce's English No. 19, 26½ ems wide, 25 lines long, with a pica slug between each line] and, as soon as proof-read and corrected, send a clean copy for revision to the enrolling clerk of the House to which the same belongs. He, in turn, will compare the proof with the passed bill or joint resolution (desk copy), strictly conforming it thereto, and return the same to the Public Printer without delay, who will, as soon as possible, return a completed copy of the same to the enrolling clerk of the House to which it belongs, and the clerk will again compare it with the passed bill or joint resolution. This will be the *engrossed* bill, and will be the one transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives to the respective Houses as the official copy.

All attestations to the passage of bills, joint resolutions, amendments to the same, and messages, must be in writing, a blank being left at the end of each, for that purpose, thus:

Attest:

Secretary.

or

Clerk.

When the Senate passes a bill or joint resolution it shall be engrossed on *white* paper (see Sample B). [Sample B shows the paper and size of a completed engrossed bill, 7½ inches wide by 11 inches long, printed on first-class white ledger paper, 24 x 32 inches, 80 pounds to the ream.] When the House passes a bill or joint resolution it shall be engrossed on paper of a *bluish* color (see Sample C). [Sample C same as Sample B, except that the paper is blue instead of white.] Size of page and paper to be like samples B and C.

When a House bill or joint resolution passes the Senate, and when a Senate bill or joint resolution passes the House, that fact shall be indorsed on the back of the bill or joint resolution by the enrolling clerk.

When a bill or joint resolution has passed both Houses of Congress, the enrolling clerk of the House in which it originated will see to it that the copy of such bill or joint resolution and amendments thereto, is properly prepared, using or writing on one side of the paper only, with riders and amendments so attached as to permit the copy to be divided into suitable "takes" for the printer, and without unnecessary delay transmitted to the Public Printer, who will immediately have the same put in type (see Sample D), [Sample D shows the type of an enrolled bill set in Bruce's English No. 19, 32½ ems wide, 43 lines long, with a 3-to-pica lead between each line] and, as soon as proof-read and corrected, send a clean copy for revision to the enrolling clerk of the House to which the same belongs. He, in turn, will compare the proof (which will be on paper) with the passed bill or joint resolution (desk copy), strictly conforming it thereto, and return the same to the Public Printer without delay. This will be the *enrolled* bill.

The final print will be on *parchment*, the size of page and parchment to be like Sample E, [Sample E is a sheet of parchment 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ x 14 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches, with a border of parallel rule printed in red, 1 inch margin top and bottom and 1½ inch margin on sides] and returned by the Public Printer to the enrolling clerk of the House in which it originated. The clerk will again compare it with the one passed by both Houses and ascertain that it is an exact copy of the one passed by both Houses before sending it to the Committee on Enrolled Bills.

Before the final printing on parchment, the greatest care must be exercised by the enrolling clerks of the respective Houses in ascertaining its accuracy, and when so ascertained, the enrolling clerk will notify the Public Printer thereof.

As is at present the case, the signature of the officer on the back of the last sheet of an enrolled bill or joint resolution as to where it originated, and the signature of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of the United States (or those who sign in lieu of them), shall be in writing, blanks being left for them, thus:

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice-President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

It will be the duty of the Public Printer to strictly follow the copy of passed bills and joint resolutions sent to him; also of amendments accompanying the same. He will consult freely and at all times with the enrolling clerks in case of doubt, not taking anything for granted, as printing the bills and joint resolutions and amendments thereto does not relieve the enrolling clerks of responsibility if the copy they furnish the Public Printer is strictly followed.

It will be the duty of the enrolling clerks to furnish the Public Printer the copy for the engrossed bills and joint resolutions and amendments thereto, also for enrolled bills, and to return the proof to the Public Printer, as expeditiously as possible, so that the same may be printed and returned to the enrolling clerks and by the proper

officers transmitted to either House with as little delay as possible. They shall furnish with each bill, joint resolution, and amendment the proper headings, captions, indorsements, or other matter that is to be printed.

The utmost vigilance and promptness are necessary at all times, and more especially in the closing hours of a Congress.

Of the engrossed bills and joint resolutions 10 copies only shall be printed, of which 5 shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate and 5 to the Clerk of the House.

Of the enrolled bills 1 copy only shall be printed of each bill.

O



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4	5	6

ALL BOOKS MAY BE RECALLED AFTER 7 DAYS

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