CHAP. 530.—An Act To establish the warrant grade of pay clerk and the commissioned warrant grades of chief marine gunner, chief quartermaster clerk, and chief pay clerk in the United States Marine Corps.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the warrant grade of pay clerk in the United States Marine Corps is hereby established, appointments thereto to be made in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy. Officers in said grade shall have the same rank, pay, allowances, and other benefits as now are or may hereafter be allowed other warrant officers in the Marine Corps. All pay clerks hereafter appointed shall be warrant officers. Pay clerks now in the Marine Corps shall be warranted as pay clerks under the provisions of this Act and shall take rank in accordance with their present dates of precedence.

That the commissioned warrant grades of chief marine gunner, chief quartermaster clerk, and chief pay clerk in the Marine Corps are hereby established, and that marine gunners, quartermaster clerks, and pay clerks shall after six years from the date of warrant be commissioned chief marine gunners, chief quartermaster clerks, and chief pay clerks, respectively, after passing satisfactorily such examinations as the Secretary of the Navy may prescribe, and when so commissioned they shall have the same rank, pay, allowances, and other benefits as now are or may hereafter be allowed commissioned warrant officers of the Navy: Provided, That for the purpose of computing the six-year period of service required for promotion from warrant to chief warrant rank, all service as pay clerk, warrant officer, and commissioned officer in the Marine Corps and all active service for purposes other than training rendered during the period from April 6, 1917, to December 31, 1921, under a temporary appointment as a pay clerk, warrant or commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps, or as a pay clerk, warrant or commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, shall be counted: Provided further, That nothing contained herein shall be construed so as to reduce the pay, allowances, emoluments, or other benefits that any person now in the service would have received but for the passage of this Act: And provided further, That the total number of warrant officers and commissioned warrant officers shall not exceed the total number of warrant officers and pay clerks now authorized by law.

Approved, June 10, 1926.

CHAP. 531.—An Act To provide for the construction of ten vessels for the Coast Guard.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed $9,000,000, to be expended by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the construction and equipment of ten Coast Guard cutters, to be designed and equipped for Coast Guard duties: Provided, That the equipment be bought in open competition.

Approved, June 10, 1926.

CHAP. 532.—An Act Authorizing the purchase by the Secretary of Commerce of a site and the construction and equipment of a building thereon for use as a master track scale and test car depot, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Commerce be, and he is hereby, authorized to purchase a suitable