CHAP. 288.—An Act Authorizing the State of Louisiana and the State of Texas to construct, maintain, and operate a free highway bridge across the Sabine River where Louisiana Highway Numbered 7 meets Texas Highway Numbered 87.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to facilitate interstate commerce, improve the postal service, and provide for military and other purposes, the Louisiana Highway Commission and the State Highway Commission of Texas be, and are hereby, authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a free highway bridge and approaches thereto across the Sabine River, between Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, and Newton County, Texas, at a point suitable to the interest of navigation, where Louisiana Highway Numbered 7 meets Texas Highway Numbered 87, in accordance with the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

Sec. 2. There is hereby conferred upon the Louisiana Highway Commission, and the State Highway Commission of Texas, all such rights and powers to enter upon lands and to acquire, condemn, occupy, possess, and use real estate and other property needed for the location, construction, operation, and maintenance of such bridge and its approaches as are possessed by railroad corporations for railroad purposes or by bridge corporations for bridge purposes in the State in which such real estate or other property is situated, upon making just compensation therefor, to be ascertained and paid according to the laws of such State, and the proceedings therefor shall be the same as in the condemnation or expropriation of property for public purposes in such State.

Sec. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, February 24, 1931.


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, out of funds in the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia, the sum of $100,000, to be expended by the District of Columbia Commission for the George Washington Bicentennial: Provided, That the expenditure of the money by the District of Columbia Commission for the George Washington Bicentennial herein authorized shall be made under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Approved, February 24, 1931.

CHAP. 290.—An Act Authorizing the payment of an indemnity to the British Government on account of losses sustained by H. W. Bennett, a British subject, in connection with the rescue of survivors of the United States ship Cherokee.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to pay to the British Government, as an act of grace and without reference to the question of the legal liability of the United States in the matter, the sum of $400 as full reimbursement for losses sustained by
H. W. Bennett, a British subject, in connection with the rescue of survivors of the United States ship Cherokee, in February, 1919, as set forth in the message of the President of January 31, 1930, and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sufficient sum to carry out the purpose of this Act.

Approved, February 24, 1931.

CHAP. 291.—Joint Resolution To increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the expenses of participation by the United States in the International Exposition of Colonial and Overseas Countries to be held at Paris, France, in 1931.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 4 of the joint resolution entitled “Joint resolution for the participation of the United States in an exposition to be held at Paris, France, in 1931,” approved June 24, 1930, is amended by striking out “$250,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “$300,000.”

Approved, February 24, 1931.

CHAP. 296.—An Act To provide for the appointment of two additional district judges for the northern district of Illinois.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, two additional district judges for the United States district court for the northern district of Illinois. The judges so appointed shall reside in said district and their compensation and powers shall be the same as now provided by law for the judges of said district. A vacancy occurring at any time in the offices herein provided for is authorized to be filled.

Approved, February 25, 1931.

CHAP. 297.—An Act To amend section 284 of the Judicial Code of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 284 of the Judicial Code (U. S. C., title 28, sec. 421) be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

“Sec. 284. No grand jury shall be summoned to attend any district court unless the judge thereof, in his own discretion or upon a notification by the district attorney that such jury will be needed, orders a venire to issue therefor. If the United States attorney for any district which has a city or borough containing at least three hundred thousand inhabitants shall certify in writing to the district judge or the senior district judge of the district that the exigencies of the public service require it, the judge may, in his discretion, order a venire to issue for a second grand jury: Provided, however, That if the United States attorney for the southern district of New York shall certify in writing to the senior district judge of said district that the exigencies of the public service require it, said judge may, in his discretion, order a venire to issue for a third grand jury. And said court may in term order a grand jury to be summoned at such time, and to serve such time as it may direct, when—