CHAP. 396.—An Act Providing for Saturday half holidays for certain Government employees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That on and after the effective date of this Act four hours, exclusive of time for luncheon, shall constitute a day's work on Saturdays throughout the year, with pay or earnings for the day the same as on other days when full time is worked, for all civil employees of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia, exclusive of employees of the Postal Service, employees of the Panama Canal on the Isthmus, and employees of the Interior Department in the field, whether on the hourly, per diem, per annum, piecework, or other basis: Provided, That in all cases where for special public reasons, to be determined by the head of the department or establishment having supervision or control of such employees, the services of such employees cannot be spared, such employees shall be entitled to an equal shortening of the workday on some other day: Provided further, That the provisions of this Act shall not deprive employees of any leave or holidays with pay to which they may now be entitled under existing laws.

Approved, March 3, 1931.

CHAP. 397.—An Act To regulate the distribution and promotion of commissioned officers of the line of the Navy, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of the Naval Appropriation Act approved August 29, 1916 (Statutes at Large, volume 39, page 576; United States Code, title 34, section 4), as provides: "That the total number of commissioned line officers on the active list at any one time, exclusive of commissioned warrant officers, shall be distributed in the proportion of one of the grade of rear admiral to four in the grade of captain, to seven in the grade of commander, to fourteen in the grade of lieutenant commander, to thirty-two and one-half in the grade of lieutenant, to forty-one and one-half in the grades of lieutenant (junior grade) and ensign, inclusive:" is hereby amended to read as follows: "That the total number of commissioned line officers on the active list at any one time, exclusive of commissioned warrant officers, shall be distributed in the proportion of one in the grade of rear admiral, to four in the grade of captain, to eight in the grade of commander, to fifteen in the grade of lieutenant commander, to thirty in the grade of lieutenant, to forty-two in the grades of lieutenant (junior grade) and ensign, inclusive:" is hereby amended to read as follows: "That the total number of commissioned line officers on the active list at any one time, exclusive of commissioned warrant officers, shall be distributed in the proportion of one in the grade of rear admiral, to four in the grade of captain, to eight in the grade of commander, to fifteen in the grade of lieutenant commander, to thirty in the grade of lieutenant, to forty-two in the grades of lieutenant (junior grade) and ensign, inclusive:" is hereby amended to read as follows: "That no officer shall be reduced in rank or pay or separated from the active list of the Navy as the result of any computation made to determine the authorized number of officers in the various grades of the line:"

SEC. 2. The selection board established by the Act of August 29, 1916, shall be convened at least once each year and at such times as the Secretary of the Navy may direct. The Secretary of the Navy shall furnish the selection board with the names of all officers who are eligible by law for consideration by said board for selection for promotion as herein authorized, together with the record of each officer. Each board shall recommend for promotion from among those officers who are eligible such number as may be directed by the Secretary of the Navy, which number shall be 10 per centum of the authorized number of officers in the grades to which promotions are to be made as determined by the existing computation, and in addition thereto