CHAP. 76.—An Act To facilitate and simplify the work of the Forest Service.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of the Act approved March 4, 1913, as provides: "That hereafter the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to reimburse owners of horses, vehicles, and other equipment lost, damaged, or destroyed while being used for necessary fire fighting, trail, or official business, such reimbursement to be made from any available funds in the appropriation to which the hire of such equipment is properly chargeable.” (Section 502, title 16, United States Code) is hereby amended to read as follows: "The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, under such regulations as he may prescribe:

(a) To hire or rent property from employees of the Forest Service for the use of officers of that service other than use by the employee from whom hired or rented, whenever the public interest will be promoted thereby: Provided, That the aggregate amount to be paid permanent employees under authorization of this subsection, exclusive of obligations occasioned by fire emergencies, shall not exceed $3,000 in any one year.

(b) To provide forage, care, and housing for animals, and storage for vehicles and other equipment obtained by the Forest Service for the use of that service from employees.

(c) To reimburse owners for loss, damage, or destruction of horses, vehicles, and other equipment obtained by the Forest Service for the use of that service from employees or other private owners: Provided, That payments or reimbursements herein authorized may be made from the applicable appropriations for the Forest Service: And provided further, That except for fire-fighting emergencies no reimbursement herein authorized shall be made in an amount in excess of $50 in any case unless supported by a written contract of hire or lease.”

Approved, January 31, 1931.

CHAP. 77.—An Act To authorize a preliminary examination of Yellow Creek and other tributaries of the Cumberland River in and about the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky, with a view to the control of their floods, 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 War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause a preliminary examination to be made of Yellow Creek and other tributaries of the Cumberland River in and about the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky, with a view to the control of their floods in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of an Act entitled “An Act to provide for control of the floods of the Mississippi River, and of the Sacramento River, California, and for other purposes,” approved March 1, 1917, the cost thereof to be paid from appropriations heretofore or hereafter made for examinations, surveys, and contingencies of rivers and harbors.

Approved, January 31, 1931.