

2-8-1858

Report : Mr. Iverson

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 8, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. IVERSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 128.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of George Phelps, report:

This claim passed the Senate at the last session of Congress, and upon a re-examination of the case the committee are of opinion that the claim is just, and they report a bill accordingly. The facts, as stated in the report of the last session, are as follows.

The petitioner presents the following account, viz:

“THE UNITED STATES,

“To George Phelps, DR.

“May 1, 1846. To extra services, as messenger, rendered in the Quartermaster General’s Office, War Department, at nights and Sundays after the closing of the public offices, from 1st December, 1839, to 1st July, 1846, six years and five months, at \$15 per month, \$1,155.”

Mr. Phelps was the regular messenger in said office during the period named, at a salary of \$500 a year.

In answer to inquiries addressed to him, the Quartermaster General states that the allegations contained in the memorial are true; that in consequence of the pressure of business in the office, arising out of the Indian hostilities in Florida, he was obliged to remain in the office almost every afternoon, and often until late at night, and often a portion, and sometimes the whole of Sundays; and that Mr. Phelps was obliged to remain and close the office, &c.

General Jessup adds: “The sum he asks is small compared with the amount of extra labor he has performed; he has fairly and honestly earned it.”

Under the peculiar circumstances of this case, and in view of the strong endorsement of its equitable merits by the distinguished head of the Quartermaster’s General Department, the committee report a bill for the payment of the sum claimed.