

69TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
No. 674

NATALIE SUMMERS

MARCH 26, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. CARPENTER, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9135]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9135) for the relief of Natalie Summers, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The full facts of the case are stated in the following memorandum from the State Department, which is made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, March 25, 1926.

HON. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,
House of Representatives.

SIR: In response to your letter of February 10, 1926, inclosing a copy of a bill (H. R. 9135) for the relief of Mrs. Natalie Summers, I have the honor to inclose a memorandum setting forth pertinent facts.

A careful examination of the claim of Mrs. Summers would seem to indicate that she is entitled to the relief requested.

This matter has been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget, and I am pleased to state that that agency has recorded the fact that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

FRANK B. KELLOGG.

MEMORANDUM

CLAIM OF MRS. NATALIE SUMMERS, WIDOW OF THE LATE CONSUL GENERAL MADDIN SUMMERS, FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF PREMIUM PAID ON BOND AS ADMINISTRATRIX OF HER DECEASED HUSBAND

Consul General Maddin Summers died at his post, Moscow, Russia, on May 4, 1918. His widow, Mrs. Natalie Summers, returned to the United States in August, 1918, and was appointed administratrix of her husband's estate by the

probate court for the District of Columbia. His personal affairs were so interwoven with his accounts as consul general, due to the unusual conditions in Russia, that it was necessary for Mrs. Summers to charge herself, for purposes of administration, with a large amount of public funds standing in his name, and this necessitated the taking out of a large bond as such administratrix, the amount of the bond being fixed by the court at \$115,000. If the personal estate could have been separated from the public property involved, the original premium which would have been required would have approximated \$40 for the first year, whereas the premium for the first year, due to the above indicated reason, was \$330. It further appears that owing to a delay in the auditing and settlement of the official accounts of Mr. Summers, the settlement of the estate and the discharge of the bond were delayed almost three years. This delay involved the renewal of the bond and the total premiums which Mrs. Summers was obliged to pay is stated to have been \$506.67. It further appears that had Government funds not been involved the total premiums which Mrs. Summers would have been compelled to pay would probably not have exceeded \$75.

AFFIDAVIT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

I, Natalie Summers, of the city of Washington, D. C., on oath depose and say that my husband, the late Maddin Summers, was American consul general at Moscow, Russia, in 1917 and 1918, and that he died on May 4, 1918, at his post as a result of overwork caused by the serious political conditions in Russia at that time; that I returned to the United States in August, 1918, and was appointed administratrix of my said husband's estate by the Probate Court for the District of Columbia; that I found his personal affairs so interwoven with his accounts as consul general, due to the unusual conditions in Russia, that it was necessary to charge myself, for purposes of administration, with a large amount of public funds standing in his name, and this necessitated the taking out of a large bond as such administratrix, the amount of said bond as fixed by the court being \$115,000; that if the personal estate of my said husband could have been separated from the public property involved the original premium on said bond which I would have had to pay would not have exceeded \$40 for the first year; instead of that and for the reason above stated, I was obliged to pay \$330 for the first year.

Deponent further states that owing to the delay of the auditing officers of the United States Government in the settlement of the accounts of the said consul general, the settlement of the estate has been delayed almost three years and this has involved the renewal of my said bond and the total premiums which I have been obliged to pay, on account of Government interests being involved, is the sum of \$506.67, while if Government funds had not been involved the total amount of premiums I, in all probability, would have had to pay would not have exceeded \$75.

And further deponent saith not.

NATALIE SUMMERS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of February, A. D. 1926.

[SEAL.]

NORMAN E. IVES,
Notary Public.