

FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN,
ALDERSON, W. VA.

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1926, TO REMAIN AVAILABLE UNTIL JUNE 30, 1927, FOR THE FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN, ALDERSON, W. VA., \$1,734,400

MARCH 22, 1926.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 22, 1926.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the Department of Justice for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, to remain available until June 30, 1927, for the Federal Industrial Institution for Women, Alderson, W. Va., \$1,734,400.

The details of this estimate, the necessity therefor, and the reason for its submission at this time are set forth in the letter of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, transmitted herewith, with whose comments and observations thereon I concur.

Respectfully,

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, March 22, 1926.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration, and upon your approval for transmission to Congress, a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the Department of Justice for the fiscal

year ending June 30, 1926, to remain available until June 30, 1927, for the establishment of a Federal Industrial Institution for Women, \$1,734,400.

Federal Industrial Institution for Women: For the purchase of land and improvements thereon, if any; the cost of remodeling and construction of buildings and appurtenances, the purchase of equipment and supplies, and livestock; and including not to exceed \$6,000 for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of passenger-carrying vehicles; the expenses of travel and subsistence; personal services as well as all other services and expenses incident to the execution of the provisions of the act approved June 7, 1924, entitled "An act for the establishment of a Federal Industrial Institution for Women, and for other purposes," to be expended under the direction of the Attorney General, to remain available until June 30, 1927, \$1,734,400, of which amount not to exceed \$172,000 shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the contract authorization for those purposes carried in the second deficiency act, fiscal year 1925, approved Mar. 4, 1925: *Provided*, That the unexpended balance of the appropriation of \$909,100 included in the second deficiency act, fiscal year 1925, approved Mar. 4, 1925, for the Federal Industrial Institution for Women shall remain available until June 30, 1927----- \$1, 734, 400

The act of June 7, 1924 (43 Stat. 473), authorized the establishment of a Federal Industrial Institution for Women. In compliance with the provisions of the act, Alderson, W. Va., was selected as the site for such institution. The second deficiency act, fiscal year 1925, approved March 4, 1925, includes an appropriation of \$909,100, together with authorization to contract for construction not exceeding \$172,000 in the aggregate for expenses incident to the construction at Alderson.

The estimate submitted herewith is for \$1,734,400, of which \$1,560,000 (including the \$172,000 previously authorized) is for construction, \$2,600 for the purchase of 7 acres of land, and \$171,800 for the purchase of tools, furniture, vehicles, fences, and necessary equipment for the various farm and livestock projects which will be needed for the training and support of the 500 inmates for which the institution is planned.

In addition to the \$172,000 previously authorized, the cost for completion of the construction work will be \$1,388,000, which includes technical services, \$30,000; 11 cottages, \$733,000; one staff house, \$50,000; one assembly and school, \$115,000; one hospital, \$90,000; one garden service and root storage house, \$20,000; one propagating and plant house, \$15,000; one cannery building and butcher shop, \$15,000; completion of garage, \$8,000; barns and other buildings in connection with livestock and poultry projects, \$79,400; roads, walks, and gutters, \$120,000; reconditioning old buildings, \$6,600; additional boilers and completion of boiler house, \$13,000; outside mechanical service, \$20,000; contingencies and miscellaneous items, \$73,000.

It is proposed to complete the greater portion of the construction work for this institution before June 30, 1927, but as rapidly as the several units become available female prisoners will be transferred to it. As soon as the institution is functioning properly it is contemplated that future commitments will be made directly to this institution. Further details with regard to the necessity for completing this industrial institution at the earliest date possible, so as to

have accommodations for at least 500 inmates, are set forth in the letter of the Attorney General, transmitted herewith.

No provision was made in the Budget for the fiscal year 1927 for further construction work at this institution for the reason that plans for the complete construction program had not been finished at the time the Budget was transmitted to Congress. Approval of this estimate is recommended.

Very respectfully,

H. M. LORD,
Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

The PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Washington, D. C., March 12, 1926.

Hon. HERBERT M. LORD,
Director Bureau of Budget.

MY DEAR GENERAL LORD: The Government faces a critical exigency in the matter of the care of female prisoners. The need for a Federal institution in which to confine women prisoners is immediate and insistent. The prisoners should receive uniform treatment and be segregated into classes according to age and past criminal record. The scattering of these women prisoners among various States, and subjecting them to a dozen or more different methods of discipline, is indefensible and evidences a neglect which should be immediately rectified.

Congress has recognized this condition and passed the act of June 7, 1924, authorizing the establishment of a Federal Industrial Institution for Women. Alderson, W. Va., has been chosen for the site, and during the past fiscal year funds were appropriated for the construction of so much of the work as could be completed within a year.

In presenting this estimate of the appropriation necessary to complete the establishment of the Federal Industrial Institution for Women at Alderson, W. Va., I wish to stress the necessity for building immediately facilities for housing and training 500 women prisoners.

In the first place, facilities are requested for 500 prisoners, not because that is the total number for which it will be necessary to provide, but because that number represents the unit which can be most economically and efficiently administered. It may be necessary to expand the unit and increase facilities to accommodate a larger number of prisoners, but I do not see how it will be possible to meet the situation existing to-day if a smaller unit is provided.

There are now more than 500 female prisoners confined in various State institutions, and half of that number could be transferred to-day if facilities were available. There are complaints from all parts of the country because of the lack of facilities. It is unquestionably a fact that the courts are imposing short sentences because of the failure to provide suitable places of incarceration. Nevertheless, there is a steady annual increase in the number of commitments. It is estimated the number of women prisoners has increased at least 100 per cent within the past 10 years.

In one respect this institution differs from anything the Government has heretofore attempted. It is not simply a place for the incarceration of women prisoners, but it is planned to give training which will enable the women, upon release, to earn an honest living. They will receive medical treatment and be rehabilitated physically. Prisoners are now turned loose at the expiration of their sentences without any regard to their future and poorly, if at all, equipped to earn a livelihood. The act authorizing the establishment of this institution contemplates a change of policy with a view to correcting such conditions. For that reason it is imperative to provide in a small way for the establishment of a few industries, such as indicated by the dairy, poultry, and farm projects, in which proper training may be given. These are limited in scope and of very modest proportion.

The estimates now forwarded have been carefully scrutinized and wherever practicable items have either been eliminated or postponed. In my opinion they represent only what is necessary for the establishment of the smallest unit susceptible of economical administration and capable of accommodating the number of prisoners we shall have to care for as soon as the institution is available. I am satisfied you will find them conservative.

Respectfully,

JNO. G. SARGENT, *Attorney General*.

Supplemental estimate of appropriation required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, by the Department of Justice

PENAL AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Federal Industrial Institution for Women, Alderson, W. Va.:

For the purchase of land and improvements thereon, if any; the cost of remodeling and construction of buildings and appurtenances, the purchase of equipment and supplies and livestock; and including not to exceed \$6,000 for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of passenger-carrying vehicles; the expenses of travel and subsistence; personal services as well as all other services and expenses incident to the execution of the provisions of the act approved June 7, 1924, entitled "An act for the establishment of a Federal Industrial Institution for Women, and for other purposes," to be expended under the direction of the Attorney General, to remain available until June 30, 1927, \$1,734,400, of which amount not to exceed \$172,000 shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the contract authorization for those purposes carried in the second deficiency act, fiscal year 1925, approved Mar. 4, 1925: *Provided*, That the unexpended balance of the appropriation of \$909,100 included in the second deficiency act, fiscal year 1925, approved Mar. 4, 1925, for the Federal Industrial Institution for Women shall remain available until June 30, 1927 (acts June 7, 1924, vol. 43, p. 473; Mar. 4, 1925, vol. 43, p. 1334) -----

Amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926_

\$1, 734, 400. 00
909, 100. 00