

# Calendar No. 650

69TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 642

CHARLES M. RODEFER

APRIL 19 (calendar day, APRIL 21), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

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

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2009]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2009) for the relief of Charles M. Rodefer, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 182, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 182, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2009) for the relief of Charles M. Rodefer, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to redeem in favor of Charles M. Rodefer, United States Treasury certificate of indebtedness numbered 11227 in the denomination of \$10,000 dated September 15, 1919, matured September 15, 1920, series T-10, with interest from March 15, 1920, to September 15, 1920, at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, without presentation of the said certificate or the coupon representing interest thereon from March 15, 1920, to September 15, 1920, the certificate having been lost, stolen, or destroyed: *Provided*, That the said certificate of indebtedness shall not have been previously presented and paid, and that payment shall not be made hereunder for any coupon which shall have been previously presented and paid: *And provided further*, That said Charles M. Rodefer shall first file in the Treasury Department of the United States a bond in the penal sum of double the amount of the principal of the said certificate of indebtedness and the interest which had accrued when the principal became due and payable in such form and with such sureties as may be acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury to indemnify and save harmless the United States from any loss on account of the lost, stolen, or destroyed certificate of indebtedness and coupon hereinbefore described."

Amend the title to read as follows: "Charles M. Rodefer."

As it is customary to grant relief in cases of lost coupon bonds, and especially as considerable time has elapsed since the maturity of the certificate and no other claimant has appeared, your committee recommends favorable consideration of H. R. 2009. The Government is fully protected in the filing of a bond in the penal sum of double the amount of the bonds lost. The form of this bill as amended has the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Attached herewith is the correspondence from the Treasury Department which is made a part of this report.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, January 7, 1926.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received your letter of December 21, 1925, transmitting a copy of H. R. 2009, a bill introduced in the House under date of December 7, 1925, for the relief of C. M. Rodefer on account of the loss, theft, or destruction of 4½ per cent Treasury certificate of indebtedness No. 11227 for \$10,000, series T-10, issued September 15, 1919, matured September 15, 1920, payable to bearer with coupon due September 15, 1920, attached, and requesting all papers, or copies of same, in the files of the department relating to the claim, together with an opinion as to its merits.

The bill is in the same form as H. R. 10314, a report on which was called for December 8, 1924, and which was not, in certain particulars, in a form approved by the department, as stated in the letter from the department to Hon. G. W. Edmonds under date of December 19, 1924, with which a draft of a bill in a form approved by the department was inclosed. However, there has also been received a copy of H. R. 6460, a bill for the relief of Charles M. Rodefer, introduced in the House December 22, 1925, which conforms to the draft referred to above.

According to the records of the department, the certificate and coupon No. 2 of the same are still outstanding. As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except as shown by the papers on file, copies of which are inclosed. These papers show that under date of August 14, 1920, Mr. Rodefer reported that the certificate had passed from his hands and that he had reason to believe it had been stolen. Considerable time has elapsed since the maturity of the certificate and no other claimant has appeared. The department will, therefore, interpose no objection to the granting of the relief sought by Mr. Rodefer.

A copy of this letter is inclosed.

Very truly yours,

A. W. MELLON,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

Hon. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,  
*Chairman Committee on Claims,  
House of Representatives.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, December 19, 1924.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I have received your letter of December 8, 1924, transmitting a copy of S. 3555, a bill for the relief of C. M. Rodefer on account of the loss, theft, or destruction of 4½ per cent Treasury certificate of indebtedness No. 11227 for \$10,000, issued September 15, 1919, matured September 15, 1920, with coupon due September 15, 1920, attached, and requesting all papers or copies of same in the files of the department relating to the case, together with an opinion as to its merits.

The certificate and coupon No. 2 of the same are still outstanding according to the records of the department. As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except as shown by the papers on file, copies of which are inclosed. These papers show that under date of August 14, 1920, Mr. Rodefer reported that the certificate had passed from his hands and that he had reason to believe it had been stolen. Since considerable time has elapsed since the maturity of the certificate and no other claimant has appeared, the department will interpose no objection to the granting of the relief sought by Mr. Rodefer.

Since the bill, in certain particulars, is not in the form approved by the department, there is inclosed a draft of a bill in accordance with such form. A request has also been received from the Committee on Claims of the House for a report on H. R. 10314 covering the same subject. A similar report is being sent to the chairman of that committee.

A copy of this letter is inclosed.

Very truly yours,

GARRARD B. WINSTON,  
*Acting Secretary of the Treasury.*

Hon. ARTHUR CAPPER,  
*Chairman Committee on Claims,  
United States Senate.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, December 19, 1924.

MY DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I have received your letter of December 12, 1924, transmitting a copy of H. R. 10314, a bill for the relief of C. M. Rodefer on account of the loss, theft, or destruction of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent Treasury certificate of indebtedness No. 11227 for \$10,000, issued September 15, 1919, matured September 15, 1920, with coupon due September 15, 1920, attached, and requesting all papers or copies of same in the files of the department relating to the case, together with an opinion as to its merits.

The certificate and coupon No. 2 of the same are still outstanding according to the records of the department. As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except as shown by the papers on file, copies of which are inclosed. These papers show that under date of August 14, 1920, Mr. Rodefer reported that the certificate had passed from his hands and that he had reason to believe it had been stolen. Since considerable time has elapsed since the maturity of the certificate and no other claimant has appeared, the department will interpose no objection to the granting of the relief sought by Mr. Rodefer.

Since the bill, in certain particulars, is not in the form approved by the department, there is inclosed a draft of a bill in accordance with such form. A request has also been received from the Committee on Claims of the Senate for a report on S. 3555 covering the same subject. A similar report is being sent to the chairman of that committee.

A copy of this letter is inclosed.

Very truly yours,

GARRARD B. WINSTON,  
*Acting Secretary of the Treasury.*

Hon. G. W. EDMONDS,  
*Chairman Committee on Claims,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

A BILL For the relief of Charles M. Rodefer.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to redeem in favor of Charles M. Rodefer, United States Treasury certificate of indebtedness No. 11227 in the denomination of \$10,000 dated September 15, 1919, matured September 15, 1920, series T-10, with interest from March 15, 1920, to September 15, 1920, at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per centum per annum, without presentation of the said certificate or the coupon representing interest thereon from March 15, 1920, to September 15, 1920, the certificate having been lost, stolen, or destroyed: Provided, That the said certificate of indebtedness shall not have been previously presented and paid, and that payment shall not be made hereunder for any coupon which shall have been previously presented and paid: And provided further, that said Charles M. Rodefer shall first file in the Treasury Department of the United States, a bond in the penal sum of double the amount of the principal of the said certificate of indebtedness and the interest which had accrued when the principal became due and payable in such form and with such sureties as may be acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury to indemnify and save harmless the United States from any loss on account of the lost, stolen, or destroyed certificate of indebtedness and coupon hereinbefore described.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS,  
Washington, D. C., December 12, 1924.

SECRETARY OF TREASURY.

SIR: Inclosed herewith I hand you copy of bill (H. R. 10314) for the relief of C. M. Rodefer now pending before this committee.

Kindly cause to be forwarded, for the use of the committee, all papers, or copies of same, on file in your department relating to this claim, with your opinion as to its merits, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

G. W. EDMONDS, *Chairman.*

CHARLES M. RODEFER

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS,  
Washington, D. C., December 8, 1924.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,  
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Inclosed herewith find copy of S. 3555, for the relief of C. M. Rodefer, now pending before the Committee on Claims. Kindly forward for the use of the committee all papers, or copies of same, in the files of the department relating to the matter, together with an opinion as to its merits, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR CAPFER, *Chairman.*

[Telegram]

DIVISION OF LOANS AND CURRENCY,  
November 29, 1924.

C. M. RODEFER, *c/o Western Union, Asheville, N. C.:*

Reference your letter November 25. The records do not indicate receipt of 4½ per cent certificate of indebtedness 11227, \$10,000, series T-10, issued September 15, 1919, matured September 15, 1920, or coupon 2 thereof.

C. N. MCGROARTY,  
*Chief Division of Loans and Currency.*

ASHEVILLE, N. C., November 25, 1924.

Mr. W. S. BROUGHTON,  
*Commissioner of Public Debt, Treasury Department,*  
*Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: You perhaps will recall the writer's conversation with you on March 29, 1924, relative to a United States certificate of indebtedness which had been stolen from him.

The security in question is United States certificate of indebtedness (definitive), series T-10, No. 11227, dated September 15, 1919, due September 15, 1920, 4½ per cent; interest coupon No. 1 not attached; coupon No. 2, \$225 attached.

We have had considerable correspondence regarding the loss of this security and the file numbers are: Division of Loans and Currency, RLL #140162, and Register of the Treasury, file 3146.

At the present time I am preparing data so that Senator Willis and Representative Frank Murphy, both from Ohio, can introduce the proper bills in the Senate and House. They desire to do this very soon after December 1.

I write to inquire if, according to your records, the above certificate and the attached coupons have ever been presented for payment. They had not the last time I had a report, which was many months ago. As I understand it, Miss Lindsay is employed in your department, and she is familiar with the transaction.

Promptly on receipt of this letter, or at your earliest convenience, I wish you would investigate the matter and formulate a night letter to be forwarded to me by Western Union lines collect. Wire me care of Western Union, Asheville, N. C., where I am temporarily located.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation, I remain,

Yours very truly,

C. M. RODEFER.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
DIVISION OF LOANS AND CURRENCY,  
Washington, October 25, 1920.

Mr. C. M. RODEFER,  
*San Diego, Calif.*

SIR: Referring to your letter dated October 4, 1920, relative to 4½ per cent unregistered Treasury certificate of indebtedness No. 11227 for \$10,000, series T-10, issued September 15, 1919, maturing September 15, 1920, and previously reported lost or stolen, you are advised that this office has not been notified of the presentation of the certificate. As stated in department letter dated Sep-



tember 3, 1920, in case of presentation of the certificate an effort will be made to inform you of the name and address of the person, firm, or bank presenting it.

The effort to give you the information referred to above is the only assistance the Secretary of the Treasury may grant under law and existing regulations on account of unregistered Treasury certificates of indebtedness which may have been lost or stolen.

Respectfully,

C. N. MCGROARTY,  
Chief, Division of Loans and Currency.  
Per C. H. M.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., October 4, 1920.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Division of Loans and Currency,  
Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: I want to thank you for your courteous letter of September 3. I beg to inquire if there has been any further development in this matter of my lost certificate.

In looking over your letter I fail to find any grounds for believing that I can regain my lost property, but surely there must be some way by which I may be protected; of course, I understand that the document is payable to bearer. I would appreciate your writing me again pointing out, if possible, any relief that I may have. I expect to be at home in Bellaire, Ohio, for about two days—October 12 and 13. Will you kindly address me at Bellaire, Ohio, so that the letter will reach me there on or before the 12th?

Your cooperation in this matter will be fully appreciated.

Awaiting to hear from you, I remain,

Yours very truly,

C. M. RODEFER.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS,  
Dallas, Tex., September 7, 1920.

Mr. C. N. MCGROARTY,  
Chief Division of Loans and Currency,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 3d, initialed RLL, advising that your office is in receipt of a report from Mr. C. M. Rodefer, box 66, station A, San Diego, Calif., of the loss or theft of a 4½ per cent unregistered Treasury certificate of indebtedness, No. 11227, for \$10,000, series T-10, issued September 15, 1919, maturing September 15, 1920.

If for any reason the above-numbered certificate is presented to this office, we will endeavor to give your office and the above-named gentleman the desired information.

Yours very truly,

FLOYD IKARD,  
Assistant Cashier.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON,  
Boston, Mass., September 7, 1920.

Mr. C. N. MCGROARTY,  
Chief Division of Loans and Currency,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: We have your letter of September 3 reporting the loss of \$10,000 United States certificate of indebtedness, series T-10, No. 11227, dated September 15, 1919, maturing September 15, 1920.

Should this certificate be surrendered to us, we will notify you and also Mr. C. M. Rodefer, Box 66, Station A, San Diego, Calif., giving the name and address of the person, firm, or bank presenting same.

Yours very truly,

L. W. SWEETSER,  
Assistant Cashier.

CHARLES M. RODEFER

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO,  
Chicago, Ill., September 7, 1920.DIVISION OF LOANS AND CURRENCY,  
Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: We wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 3, stating there has been received in your office from Mr. C. M. Rodefer, box 66, Station A, San Diego, Calif., a report of the loss or theft of a 4½ per cent unregistered Treasury certificate of indebtedness, No. 11227, for \$10,000, series T-10, issued September 15, 1919, maturing September 15, 1920.

Should the certificate be presented to us, we will be pleased to advise you and Mr. Rodefer accordingly.

Yours very truly,

D. A. JONES, Assistant Cashier.  
By H. A. DEHLINGER.FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK,  
New York, N. Y., September 4, 1920.Mr. C. N. MCGROARTY,  
Chief Division of Loans and Currency,  
Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: We have your letter of September 3, advising us of the loss or theft from C. M. Rodefer, Box 66, Station A, San Diego, Calif., of United States 4½ per cent certificate of indebtedness, dated September 15, 1919, due September 15, 1920, series T-10, No. 11227, amount \$10,000.

If this certificate is presented to us, we shall endeavor to detect it and be guided by the instructions received from the Treasury Department relative to certificates of indebtedness reported lost or stolen.

Very truly yours,

W. B. MATTESON,  
Manager Certificates of Indebtedness Department,  
By W. WELLS.TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
DIVISION OF LOANS AND CURRENCY,  
Washington, September 3, 1920.FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS,  
War Loan Department, Dallas, Tex.

SIRS: There has been received in this office from Mr. C. M. Rodefer, box 66, Station A, San Diego, Calif., a report of the loss or theft of a 4½ per cent unregistered Treasury certificate of indebtedness, No. 11227, for \$10,000, series T-10, issued September 15, 1919, maturing September 15, 1920.

You are requested to notify Mr. C. M. Rodefer and this office in case the certificate is presented to you and to give the name and address of the person, firm, or bank presenting it.

Respectfully,

C. N. MCGROARTY,  
Chief Division of Loans and Currency,  
Per C. H. M.

Same letter also sent to Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, New York, Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Atlanta, Cleveland, Richmond, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
DIVISION OF LOANS AND CURRENCY,  
Washington, September 3, 1920.Mr. C. M. RODEFER,  
San Diego, Calif.

SIR: Referring to your letter of August 14, 1920, reporting the loss or theft of a 4½ per cent unregistered Treasury certificate of indebtedness No. 11227 for \$10,000, series T-10, issued September 15, 1919, maturing September 15, 1920, stating that the first coupon for \$225 had been detached at the time of the purchase of the certificate of indebtedness, but that the second coupon is still attached and

is also due September 15, 1920, you are advised that a memorandum of the loss has been entered and in case of presentation of the certificate the department will endeavor to inform you of the name and address of the person, firm, or bank presenting it. Inasmuch as Treasury certificates of indebtedness payable to bearer are like coupon bonds and pass from one owner to another by act of delivery, no stoppage or caveat can be entered against their payment.

The Secretary of the Treasury has no authority under the law to grant relief on account of unregistered United States certificates of indebtedness which may have been lost or stolen. Under the provisions of sections 3702-3705 of the Revised Statutes, relief can be given as to coupon bonds only when destroyed or defaced, and proper proof thereof made and indemnity given.

Your inquiry relative to coupons has been referred to the Register of the Treasury, with the request that if any information relative to the presentation of the coupons should come to hand, that it be furnished to you.

In regard to your inquiry relative to rules governing destroyed or defaced certificates of indebtedness, you are advised that duplicates may be issued only when the destruction of the certificates can be shown by clear and unequivocal proof.

A copy of an extract from the "Regulations of the Treasury Department in relation to United States bonds" is inclosed for your information.

Respectfully,

C. N. MCGROARTY,  
*Chief Division of Loans and Currency,*  
Per C. H. M.

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SAN DIEGO, Calif., August 14, 1920.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Division of Loans and Currency, Washington, D. C.*

GENTLEMEN: I have been told that the subject about which I now write should be taken up with the Division of Loans and Currency, hence I write you now. But, if yours is not the proper department, will you see that this letter reaches the proper department without delaying to write me before such transfer is made. We need to save the time required for a letter to reach me in San Diego, Calif., where I am located temporarily, at the above address.

As treasurer of the Rodefer Glass Co., Bellaire, Ohio, I held until recently, certificate of indebtedness of the United States, No. 11227 for \$10,000. This certificate is dated September 15, 1919, and is due September 15, 1920, bears  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest, and has one interest coupon (No. 2) for \$225 attached to it. The certificate is one of the series T-10, and is usable for tax purposes. The interest coupon referred to is also due September 15, 1920. I think this certificate is classed as a definitive. At least it is not a temporary certificate.

This certificate has passed out of my hands, and the holder of it is not the lawful owner of it. I have every reason to believe it was stolen from among my papers. I desire that you take such action or actions as will protect my interests in the certificate to the limit. I understand that it is a document which is payable to bearer, but, I also believe that the collection of a certificate of this size would not be passed as a mere casual happening in a day's work in an ordinary bank, or in a Federal reserve bank or branch. It would seem to me that some notice could be sent out by someone in authority at Washington to such places as the collection of such a certificate would naturally be made. The loss was experienced at Bellaire, Ohio, which is under the Federal reserve bank at Cleveland, Ohio. The certificate was purchased through Otis & Co., investment bankers of Cleveland, Ohio.

I am hoping that there are rules governing such cases which would work out and result in proving the ownership of this certificate when it is presented for payment. If there is any procedure which would stop payment entirely until full investigation could be made, then I would like to ask that such action be taken at once.

The collection of the first interest coupon for \$225 took place before I bought the certificate. It might be of interest, however, to know if the first coupon has been canceled at the Treasury Department. I would be glad to have you investigate this feature.

I am assuming that anyone now having the certificate but not owning it would not make any attempt at collection of either principal or interest until about the due date, September 15, 1920, and that we can look for such collection within

the next 60 days, because either an early or late presentation for collection would call forth unnecessary suspicion. Therefore I feel that every effort possible should be exerted now. And I trust that the Treasury Department will assist me in reclaiming my property. Investigation can be made by your department, and you will find that my personal interests and the interests of the Rodefer Glass Co. are about the same, because I own and control almost all of the holdings of such company. I am taking this matter up personally because the loss is my personal loss.

Will you be kind enough to investigate to see if the certificate has as yet reached the Treasury Department? If it has, can you trace it back to the place of collection?

I have sought no professional advice in this matter, and I am hoping that some one in the Treasury Department will communicate with me at once regarding this matter. I would like to know fully what I can expect.

Should this certificate not turn up for collection, can I be protected? What are the rules governing destroyed or defaced certificates of indebtedness?

In the event that the certificate has already reached the Treasury Department and has been canceled then please wire at once. If other features of the case seem to require immediate advice, please wire me at my expense, and I will gladly give you such additional information as I can.

Awaiting with much interest your prompt reply, I remain,

Very truly,

C. M. RODEFER.

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