

ESTIMATE—TAKING TESTIMONY IN COURT OF CLAIMS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN REFERENCE TO

*An additional appropriation for taking testimony in cases pending in the Court of Claims.*

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JANUARY 20, 1857.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 17, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter, dated the 15th instant, from M. Blair, esq., United States solicitor for the Court of Claims, suggesting the propriety of an additional appropriation of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, for the expenses of taking testimony in behalf of the United States in said court, and respectfully recommend the suggestion to the favorable consideration of the House of Representatives.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES GUTHRIE,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

Hon. N. P. BANKS,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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OFFICE SOLICITOR COURT OF CLAIMS,  
*Washington, January 15, 1857.*

SIR: The fund appropriated at the last session of Congress for the expenses of taking testimony on behalf of the United States in cases pending in the Court of Claims has been found entirely inadequate to the requirement of the public service, although it has been administered frugally. It has been expended almost entirely in California, where a class of cases not unlike those with which you are familiar, known as the Florida cases, is growing up; and it is of immense importance that the frauds on which these cases are founded should

be exposed by the testimony of men of character, which can be had if the money be furnished to procure it.

I think at least five thousand dollars will be required, and suggest that an estimate for that amount be sent to the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

Very respectfully,

M. BLAIR,  
*United States Solicitor.*

Hon. JAMES GUTHRIE,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*