

For \$2,500,000 Boost in Item For Dry Forces

House Committee Asks Increase for Coast Guard and Customs Units

WASHINGTON (U. P.)—Expenditure of \$34,428,777 for prohibition enforcement in the next fiscal year was recommended by the House appropriations committee today in its report on the annual Post-office and Treasury Department supply bill. This is approximately \$2,500,000 more than the government is spending this year.

The total sum recommended for expense of the Treasury and Post-office departments is \$1,147,778,692, an increase of \$12,106,433 over current appropriations, but \$13,073,950 less than budget estimates. The Post-office Department gets \$835,494,077 and the Treasury Department \$312,284,615 of the total.

In drafting the prohibition sections of the appropriation bill, the committee followed closely the recommendations of President Hoover in his budget message. The sum allotted to the Prohibition Bureau is exactly the same as the bureau is spending this year. The Coast Guard allotment for anti-smuggling activities is increased about \$2,000,000, however, and the Customs Bureau is given \$440,000 more for field service.

For Prohibition Forces.

The total recommended appropriation for prohibition enforcement next year is divided as follows: Prohibition Bureau, \$15,000,000; Coast Guard, \$16,807,190, and Customs Bureau, \$2,621,587. The Coast Guard and Customs figures are necessarily estimates, as it is impossible to segregate their prohibition enforcement expenses from the costs of their other activities.

Explaining its failure to increase appropriations for the Prohibition Bureau, the committee report quoted the testimony of Prohibition Commissioner Doran. Asked whether \$15,000,000 would be sufficient to maintain the bureau during the 1931 fiscal year, Doran said:

"That will maintain the present personnel and the present rate of activity. My judgment is that there would be an unwise expenditure of money if the present appropriation were materially increased at this time, for the reason that it would inevitably tend to congest further the federal courts.

Depending on States.

He said further extension of the bureau's activities also would result ~~eventually~~ in the Federal government taking complete responsibility for prohibition enforcement, even in states where local officials now are expected to do their part.

Doran said federal prohibition officials had adopted a policy of going after large liquor distributors rather than petty violators and had as many agents as it needed for this kind of program. The force was augmented materially last spring when Congress gave the bureau an unsolicited \$2,000,000 increase.

The Jones law, providing more drastic penalties for professional bootleggers, Doran told the committee, has been helpful in eliminating small manufacturers and distributors of illicit liquor.

Senator Harris (Dem., Ga.) considered the spokesman for extreme Congressional dries, already has announced he will seek to increase the Prohibition Bureau's appropriation, regardless of opposition from the administration, when the bill reaches the Senate. The House is expected to accept the committee's recommendation without serious objection, however.

The increase of \$17,478,352 carried by the bill for expenses of the Post-office Department is accounted for largely by projected expansion of air mail and ocean mail service. The Treasury Department appropriation is about \$5,000,000 less than for the present year, despite the large increase in Coast Guard allotments.