
DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN PAID UNITED STATES
CHECKS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

TRANSMITTING

DRAFT OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE DESTRUCTION OF CER-
TAIN PAID UNITED STATES CHECKS

JANUARY 13, 1926.—Referred to the Committee on Finance and ordered to be
printed

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 12, 1926.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: There is transmitted herewith a draft of "A bill to authorize the destruction of paid United States checks," proposing that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller General of the United States, respectively, are authorized and directed to cause to be destroyed paid United States Government checks and warrants issued six full fiscal years prior to the date of destruction. This suggested legislation has the concurrence of the Comptroller General of the United States. It is not considered necessary that these checks be preserved for a longer time than six full fiscal years provided for in the proposed bill. A considerable part of these checks were retained in the files of the Assistant Treasurers of the United States prior to the discontinuance of their respective offices under the act of May 29, 1920, and are now stored at various places. In some instances the utilization of space in the buildings formerly occupied by the assistant treasurers required the removal of the checks to temporary filing space in outside buildings, there being neither space nor appropriation available for removing them to Washington at the time of such discontinuance, nor is there available Government space within the city of Washington for proper filing and preservation.

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At the present time substantially all Government checks issued by the disbursing officers and agents of the Government are drawn upon the Treasurer of the United States and are transmitted to the General Accounting Office, making the question of storage space for them a very serious problem. It is believed that there is sufficient record of such checks and their payment independent of the checks themselves, and it is not felt that any serious situation can arise as a result of their destruction. From all considerations of the question, it is considered very desirable to cause their destruction after the period of six years.

Very truly yours,

A. W. MELLON,
Secretary of the Treasury.

A BILL To authorize the destruction of paid United States checks

The Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller General of the United States, respectively, are hereby authorized and directed to cause to be destroyed all United States Government checks and warrants issued by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postmaster General, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers of the United States, or by disbursing officers and agents of the United States, six full fiscal years prior to the date of destruction, which checks and warrants have been paid and form the paid check files of the Treasury Department and of the General Accounting Office wherever stored under their respective control, after all unpaid checks and warrants have been listed as outstanding as now required by law: *Provided*, That such checks and warrants as, in their discretion, respectively, may be deemed necessary in the public interests or the legality of the negotiation of which has been questioned in any material respect by any party in interest, may be preserved.

SEC. 2. All claims on account of any check, checks, warrant or warrants, appearing to have been paid, shall be barred if not presented to the General Accounting Office within six years after the date of issuance of the check, checks, warrant, or warrants involved.

