

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JULY 18, 1894.

Referred to the Committee on Labor and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PHILLIPS introduced the following bill:

A BILL

Authorizing the appointment of a nonpartisan commission to collate information and to consider and recommend legislation to meet the problems presented by labor, agriculture, and capital.

Whereas many of those engaged in the various fields of labor, and also many of those engaged in agricultural pursuits, are organized, and, together with those engaged in commerce, are presenting grievances to Congress and to the various State governments seeking and demanding legislation in their behalf: Now, therefore, in order to give a hearing and to meet the requirements of this large number of citizens,

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That the President of the United States is hereby authorized
- 4 and required to appoint a commission composed as follows:
- 5 Five men representative of labor, five men representative of
- 6 agriculture, and five men representative of business; but a
- 7 majority of this commission shall not belong to any one of

8 the political parties which took part in the last Presidential
9 election.

1 SEC. 2. After the appointment of this commission each
2 division of five is hereby authorized and directed to choose or
3 appoint two additional commissioners to act with them on
4 terms of equality, making the whole number twenty-one; but
5 neither one of the divisions of five shall make both of its
6 appointments from the same political party.

1 SEC. 3. That each division of seven shall have the right
2 to employ one lawyer, whose compensation shall be the same
3 as hereafter provided for a member of the commission. Each
4 division shall be allowed one secretary, at a salary of one
5 hundred dollars per month while the commission is in session.
6 The commission shall convene in the city of Washington,
7 District of Columbia, within sixty days after its appointment
8 by the President, and shall, as soon as practicable, appoint
9 the additional members as provided for in section two, but
10 may proceed with business in the meantime.

1 SEC. 4. That the commission shall elect its own chair-
2 man and officers, but in case of disagreement a chairman shall
3 be selected by each division to serve in rotation thirty days
4 each.

1 SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of this commission to
2 inquire whether adequate laws have been enacted to carry
3 into effect the principles declared by the founders of this Gov-

4 ernment—"That all men are created equal; that they are
5 endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights;
6 that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happi-
7 ness"—and whether there are laws now in existence which
8 abridge these rights.

1 SEC. 6. That in pursuance of this object it shall be the
2 duty of this commission to investigate questions pertaining to
3 immigration, to labor, to agriculture, and to business, and
4 recommend to Congress such legislation as it may deem best
5 upon these subjects.

1 SEC. 7. That it shall furnish such information and sug-
2 gest such laws as may be made a basis for uniform legislation
3 by the various States of the Union in order to harmonize
4 conflicting interests, and to be equitable to the laborer, the
5 employer, the producer, and the consumer.

1 SEC. 8. That the commission shall receive petitions and
2 grant reasonable time for hearings on subjects pertaining to
3 its duties, and, if deemed necessary, it shall appoint a sub-
4 commission or commissions to make investigation in any part
5 of the United States, and it shall be allowed expenses for the
6 same. It shall have the authority to send for persons and
7 papers, to administer oaths or affirmations. All necessary
8 expenses, including reading clerk, shorthand reporters, rent
9 for the place of meeting, furniture and fixtures, and printing,
10 shall be allowed.

1 SEC. 9. The term of the commission shall be two years
2 unless its work is accomplished in less time, and the term of
3 service shall not be less than six months in each year. The
4 salary and mileage of each member of this commission shall
5 be the same as that of the members of the House of Repre-
6 sentatives.

1 SEC. 10. Any vacancies occurring in the commission by
2 reason of death, disability, or from any other cause shall be
3 filled by appointment in the same manner and by the same
4 authority as the commissioner was appointed whose place is
5 to be filled.

1 SEC. 11. A sum sufficient to carry out the provisions of
2 this Act is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the
3 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated.
4 All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this Act are
5 hereby repealed.

53^d CONGRESS, }
2^d Session. } **H. R. 7756.**

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