

Governor Cone Lets Record Appropriations Bill Become Law Without His Signature

In Commission Rec. Exp. Dept.

Vetoes One \$25,000 Item But Says Other Excessive Amounts Could Not Be Reached Because of Set-Up.

TALLAHASSEE, June 14, (AP)—The highest appropriations in Florida's history—about \$48,000,000 a year for the coming biennium—became law today.

The new record figure includes for the first time \$3,800,000 for aid to the aged, needy blind and dependent children and compares with \$43,000,000 cost of the State government and its activities, last year.

Although he considered it too high, Governor Cone permitted the \$8,227,000 general appropriations bill to become law today without his signature, after vetoing one \$25,000 item. The Legislature passed the general appropriations bill a few days before adjournment.

"There were a great many items that shouldn't have been there," the governor said. "It was so couched that I couldn't get at them with a veto.

"If it had been set up with all the appropriations itemized like they used to do it, I could have cut out enough useless things to save \$1,000,000."

The governor has power to veto any item in the bill. A legislative conference committee representing the House and Senate sought to break down lump sum allotments so he could strike out some of them, but the Legislature forced a continuation of the existing system un-

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der which most departmental and institutional appropriations were divided only into two groups, one for salaries and the other for expenses.

The governor said he expected to prevent some expenditures for which money was appropriated "if I can," but he wasn't sure just what could be done.

He said he would "have a lot to do with" the \$250,000 special appropriation for the State Tuberculosis Hospital at Orlando, which he said was too high.

Signs Park Bill.

He signed a special bill appropriating \$87,760 for two-year expenses of the Everglades National Park Commission, whose members resigned at his request.

"But I'm not going to let them spend more than \$10,000 a year until I'm sure the Federal Government is going to take over the park," he commented.

He said some of the commission resignations would be accepted in the next few days.

The one general appropriations item vetoed was \$25,000 for forestry work. Governor Cone said he objected to it because \$50,000 was appropriated in a separate bill he signed today.

By another veto he killed a separate bill allotting \$200,000 of State money to a teachers' retirement fund.

In other separate acts, the governor has approved appropriations for a Spanish War memorial at Tampa, assistance to historical restoration work at St. Augustine, hog cholera serum, tuberculosis work and numerous other sums.

Besides these items, there is a continuing appropriation that provides approximately \$11,800,000 for the schools, another carrying about \$9,000,000 for the State Road Department and \$9,000,000 for county road bonds, and numerous other allotments that continue from year to year.

General Appropriations Up.

The general appropriations bill is approximately 10 per cent higher than the 1935 total. Governor Cone asked the Legislature to use figures voted two years ago, as a yardstick for 1937.

The bill was pushed through Senate and House far ahead of schedule. Differences between the two branches were worked out by two conference committees before both Houses agreed to the final figures four days before adjournment.

The governor vetoed a bill creating a State Marketing Authority with power to borrow money.

He said the bill was an "attempt to circumvent the Constitution by this kind of scheme, so as to allow an agency of the State to borrow money." The Constitution bans borrowing, except to suppress insurrection or repel invasion.

Although the Authority's obligations would not have been payable from State funds, Cone said Florida would have been "morally bound" for its debts.

The bill does not interfere with the present State Marketing Board.

Among the last bills which the governor permitted to become law without his signature was an act limiting him to a real estate law