

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON

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President,

Board of Commissioners,

District of Columbia.

Sir:

There has been considered your letter of January 10, 1936, as follows:

"There is before the Auditor of the District of Columbia voucher in favor of Caroline A. Whipple, Prince George Hotel, New York, N.Y., in the amount of \$50.00, purporting to cover an honorarium for addressing Emergency Adult Education Institute, held at the Americanization School, Washington, D. C., with the note that the expenses incurred in connection with this institute were approved by Doctor Alderman under date of September 20, 1935 -- traveling expenses taken care of by Miss Whipple. The letter to which reference is made is signed by L. R. Alderman, Director, Education Division, Emergency Relief Administration, and is addressed to R. L. Haycock, Assistant Superintendent of Public Schools in charge of Education Program. The letter is as follows:

"This will approve, in general, the budget for the Emergency Nursery School and the Emergency Adult Education Institute which you submitted on September 13.

"I am, however, only approving \$200.00 for the employment of out-of-town speakers, and \$50.00 for their expenses in traveling. I do not see any advantage of bringing many outside speakers to the District as I believe you have here ample talent for such an Institute as you have planned."

"This voucher, when it was received by the Auditor, was returned to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools with the statement that in his opinion there is ample talent here in Washington, and that there is little necessity for the employment of out-of-town speakers. This, coupled with the fact that Miss Whipple rendered a lump-sum invoice for the service rendered, led him to the conclusion that approval of payment was unauthorized, there being nothing in the record

ow that her services are of such nature, and that she was r qualified to address the institute than local talent. There- a statement was furnished by the Administrative Principal of sanisation Work, Webster School, as follows:

"Miss Whipple has been State Director of Adult Education in rk for many years, and is the author of the manual for teach- adults issued by the University of the State of New York sed throughout the country. She is recognized as an authority ult education and was selected to organize and administer the under the Emergency Relief program for New York City. In ition of her administrative and inspirational ability, she has ly been sent to organize and supervise both permanent and ncy work in the central part of New York State.

"Miss Whipple had been such an inspiration to me in my work ector of the emergency classes in Washington that I felt it be of great help to the teachers to meet a woman who sees portant this work is, not only to the community, but to the y."

The letter of the Administrative Principal was transmitted Auditor by the Superintendent of Schools with the following ent in justification of the expenditure:

"Herewith I am transmitting a statement from Miss Maude E. explaining the reason for bringing Miss Whipple to this city k before the Institute. It is indicated that school offi- so invited Miss Whipple to come to Washington based their n on Dr. Alderman's letter of September 20, which you quote ' communication. It is pointed out that although Dr. Alder- ight speakers might be obtained in this city, he did actually se a limited amount of money for out-of-town speakers. officers proceeded in accordance with this authorization. ton states further that Miss Whipple, an outstanding leader Emergency Education Program in New York, was the proper per- be invited to participate on our Institute program.

School officers will be seriously embarrassed if no payment ade to Miss Whipple who incurred personally the expense of to Washington and returning to New York, especially on the Dr. Alderman's authorization of September 20, 1935. officers are aware of no other fund that can be used for re- ig Miss Whipple.

For the information of the Auditor, the Superintendent desires to state that in connection with educational institutes out the United States there has developed the uniform policy of offering an honorarium to a visiting speaker, nominally to cover his expenses and incidentals, and to give recognition to the institution he makes to an educational program. This plan is followed in connection with all out-of-town persons invited to speak at public school institute programs.'

In view of the foregoing the Commissioners would appreciate from you as to whether your office will interpose any objection to this disbursement in the account of J. R. Lusby, District Officer of the District of Columbia."

It is understood that the funds proposed to be charged are set up on the books of the Treasury under the appropriation "D.C. T-008, Emergency Relief, Grants by Federal Emergency Administration, District of Columbia", consisting of grants from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration to the District of Columbia under the provisions of the Federal Emergency Relief Act of May 12, 1933, 48 Stat. 55, and the act of February 5, 1934, 48 Stat. 351, as extended by section 10 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, 49 Stat. 119.

It appears that the program submitted by the District of Columbia for the Emergency Nursery School and the Emergency Adult Education Institute was approved by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, including an amount not to exceed \$100 for the payment of out-of-town speakers, and an amount not to exceed \$50 for their traveling expenses.

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r the circumstances, this office will interpose no
to the disbursement in question in the accounts of the
g officer for the District of Columbia, it appearing that
diture in the amount of \$50 may be considered as an allow-
nistrative expense in carrying out the purposes of the ap-
oject.

Respectfully,

(Signed) R. N. Elliott

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States.