



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON

970

January 18, 1932.

Honorable Sol Bloom,

Associate Director,

George Washington Bicentennial Commission,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

There has been received your letter of January 8, 1932, as follows:

"During the official period designated for the Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington it is considered fitting and appropriate that as features of the celebration in the National Capital a Colonial Ball, a great poetic Masque, and perhaps one or two similar features be given in this city, jointly by the District of Columbia George Washington Bicentennial Commission and the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission.

"I consider it necessary to take this matter up with you as it involves the question as to whether this Commission will be permitted to charge admission fees to these various events and use that income to reimburse our appropriation for the money expended in the expenses of the events themselves.

"These expenses will involve preparations, hall rent, cost of extra employees, etc., and I consider it highly desirable that we be permitted to return these expenses to our appropriation.

"I do not anticipate that there will be a profit in any of these events. They will probably all fall considerably short of such profit and of course it is not the intention to make a profit.

"In order to avoid any complication that may arise in connection with the financial arrangements for the purposes indicated, the matter outlined herein is submitted for decision in accordance with the laws under which the Commission functions and these expenditures incurred.

"Since the time is growing very short before the initial function is scheduled, may I respectfully request that we be given an opinion in the matter at your earliest convenience?"

971

Section 3617, Revised Statutes, provides as follows:

"The gross amount of all moneys received from whatever source for the use of the United States, except as otherwise provided in the next section, shall be paid by the officer or agent receiving the same into the Treasury, at as early a day as practicable, without any abatement or deduction on account of salary, fees, costs, charges, expenses, or claim of any description whatever. But nothing herein shall affect any provision relating to the revenues of the Post-Office Department."

I find nothing in the Public Resolution of December 22, 1924, 43 Stat. 671, or the act of February 21, 1930, 46 Stat. 71, creating the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, or in the appropriations for its expenses, act of February 23, 1931, 46 Stat. 1363, and act of March 4, 1931, 47 Stat. 1554, authorizing your commission to accept donations for expenditure or otherwise to enlarge the amounts which Congress has appropriated. If it is found necessary by the Commission to the success of the celebration that there should be entertainment in the form of balls or other forms of entertainment provided from appropriated funds, in connection with proper control over which there should be charged admission, then in view of section 3617, Revised Statutes, supra, all receipts from such sources must be properly accounted for and covered into the Treasury to the credit of Miscellaneous Receipts and will not be available for expenditure. 17 Comp. Dec. 712; 7 Comp. Gen. 391; 8 id. 628; 11 id. 114.

Respectfully,

(Signed) J.R. McGarl

Comptroller General
of the United States.