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**REPORT TO
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**

FILE

**AUDIT OF
HUDSON-CHAMPLAIN CELEBRATION COMMISSION
MAY 1960**



**BY
THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**

JUNE 1960

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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON 25

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B-133320

Honorable Sam Rayburn
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Herewith is our report on the audit of the Hudson-Champlain Celebration Commission. The Commission was in existence from August 8, 1958, through February 29, 1960.

Our audit, which was completed in May 1960, indicates that the Commission properly accounted for the funds under its control.

This report is also being sent today to the President of the Senate. Copies are being sent to the President of the United States and to the Chairman of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,


Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

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REPORT ON AUDIT
OF
HUDSON-CHAMPLAIN CELEBRATION COMMISSION
MAY 1960

The General Accounting Office has made an audit of the HUDSON-CHAMPLAIN CELEBRATION COMMISSION pursuant to the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921 (31 U.S.C. 53), and the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 67). Our audit was performed in Washington, D.C., and was completed in May 1960. The audit included an examination of financial transactions to the extent deemed appropriate in view of the nature and volume of the transactions and also such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Hudson-Champlain Celebration Commission was established by the act of August 8, 1958 (72 Stat. 544), and expired on February 29, 1960. The Commission's objectives were to prepare and execute plans for the celebration in 1959 of the 350th anniversary of the voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain and to cooperate with and assist any agency created for the purpose of planning and promoting the celebration.

MANAGEMENT

The act of August 8, 1958, provided that the Commission be composed of 21 members: 4 Senators to be appointed by the President of the Senate; 4 Representatives to be appointed by the

Speaker of the House of Representatives; and 13 members, including a chairman, to be appointed by the President of the United States. The members of the Commission were to serve without salary.

The President of the Senate appointed Senators George D. Aiken, John O. Pastore, Patrick V. McNamara, and Jacob K. Javits. The Speaker of the House of Representatives appointed Congressmen Emanuel Celler, Kenneth B. Keating, Dean P. Taylor, and Lester Holtzman. Congressman Keating was elected to the United States Senate and Congressman John V. Lindsay replaced him on the Commission in January 1959.

The President of the United States appointed John H. G. Pell, Gordon L. Banker, James A. Fitzpatrick, Leon S. Gay, Admiral H. Kent Hewitt (U.S.N. Ret.), Hon. Grant W. Johnson, Harold W. McGraw, Perry H. Merrill, Vrest Orton, William S. Preston, Walter H. Van Hoesen, Mrs. J. Watson Webb, and Hon. Reynier J. Wortendyke.

John H. G. Pell was named Chairman; Leon Michel, Special Assistant; Richard J. Hughes, Jr., Manley W. Allen, and Edward G. Beagle, Jr., Administrative Assistants; and Colonel Joseph B. McShane, U.S.A.F., Coordinator for the Department of Defense.

OPERATIONS

The Commission established headquarters in Federal Hall, a National Park Service building, at 15 Pine Street in New York City.

The first meeting of the Commission was held on December 11, 1958, to report on the activities of the Chairman and the Special Assistant and to discuss plans for the celebrations.

A number of Hudson and Champlain celebration committees were established at State, county, city, and community levels in the Hudson River and Lake Champlain areas to plan and promote pageants, parades, and festivals to commemorate the voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain. At a joint meeting with these committees, held on December 16, 1958, the Commission Chairman and Special Assistant explained the functions of the Commission. The Commission acted as coordinator, liaison agent, and information center for each committee during the celebration.

The Commission sponsored a Joint Press Conference in January 1959, and representatives of the various celebration committees explained their activities to the press and other interested organizations. The Commission's staff worked closely with the press throughout the celebration year.

The second meeting of the Commission was held in May 1959. A full report was made on its activities, and a review of expenditures showed that additional funds were needed to finance a visit of Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands. The Congress appropriated \$25,000 on September 28, 1959, to finance the visit (Public Law 86-383).

In carrying out the objectives of the Commission, its members traveled extensively in New York, Vermont, and Canada and between New York City and Washington, D.C. They participated in meetings and celebrations, appeared on broadcasts, arranged for and coordinated the participation of the Armed Services in community celebrations, and worked with local, Federal, and foreign representatives.

On June 25, 1959, at the Commission's request, the President issued a proclamation inviting the citizens to join in commemorating the heroic deeds of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain.

The Commission's staff participated in a 6-day Hudson Celebration in New York City in June 1959 and coordinated the Champlain Weekend in Essex County, New York, in July 1959. The staff also planned and managed the visit of Princess Beatrix to the Hudson celebrations in September 1959.

During the celebration year, information was distributed to editors in the United States and Canada and replies and printed material were mailed to all who requested information.

The activities of the Commission terminated upon submission of its report to the Congress on February 29, 1960.

FINANCING

The activities of the Commission were financed by funds appropriated by the Congress. As shown in schedule 1, the Congress appropriated \$75,000 to the Commission for operating expenses. At May 11, 1960, \$74,993 had been expended and the remaining balance of \$7 was withdrawn.

The principal operating expenses were (1) \$29,793 for salaries of staff members, (2) \$15,684 for travel of Commission members and for car rental and expenses related to the visit of Princess Beatrix, and (3) \$17,167 for contractual services which included photographs, press-clipping services, hotel accommodations for the Princess and her party, and printing the final report of the Commission.

The fiscal operations of the Commission were performed by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, for which a charge of \$3,571 was made. This charge is shown as facilitating services under expenditures on schedule 1.

OPINION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement (schedule 1) was prepared by the National Park Service to show the status of the Hudson-Champlain Celebration Commission at the date of its termination on February 29, 1960. We adjusted this statement to show the liquidation of the remaining obligations (\$5,554) of the Commission from March 1 through May 11, 1960.

In our opinion the statement presents fairly the receipts and expenditures of the Commission in conformity with the principles and standards of accounting prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

HUDSON-CHAMPLAIN CELEBRATION COMMISSION

SCHEDULE OF APPROPRIATIONS
AND EXPENDITURES FROM APPROPRIATIONS
AUGUST 27, 1958, THROUGH MAY 11, 1960

APPROPRIATIONS:

Acts of:

August 27, 1958 (72 Stat. 876)	\$50,000
September 28, 1959 (Public Law 86-383)	<u>25,000</u>
	75,000

EXPENDITURES FROM APPROPRIATIONS:

Personal services	\$29,793	
Travel	15,684	
Transportation	42	
Communications	4,472	
Rents and utilities	545	
Printing and reproduction	1,267	
Other contractual services	17,167	
Supplies and materials	1,767	
Equipment	189	
Taxes and assessments	496	
Facilitating services	<u>3,571</u>	<u>74,993</u>

UNOBLIGATED BALANCE, withdrawn May 11, 1960, pursuant to
the act of July 25, 1956 (70 Stat. 648)

\$ 7