

initiation of a civil suit and final disposition has steadily been widening. For example, the time of delay between the joinder of issue of a civil jury case and trial is now 26 months; last year that delay was 22 months; in 1963 the time of delay was only four months. The number of pending civil jury cases has increased from 3,272 on September 30, 1965 to 5,492 in April, 1968. At the same time the Court faced, as of April 24, 1968, a backlog of 1,742 criminal jury cases.

This increasingly heavy burden being imposed upon the judges of the Court makes it clearly desirable that their compensation be augmented as the bill provides. It should be emphasized that the compensation of the judges sitting in the Court of General Sessions has not been increased since 1964. The District believes that their service in what is a very significant and heavily burdened court merits this consideration.

Section 2 of the bill provides for an increase in the compensation of the judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Under existing law (as provided by the Act approved August 14, 1964), the Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals receives an annual salary of \$25,000 and each Associate Judge receives an annual salary of \$24,500. The bill would increase the salary of the Chief Judge to \$29,000 and that of each Associate Judge to \$28,500. The increasingly heavy burden carried by the judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals is amply reflected in the caseload figures of recent years. In fiscal year 1965, 241 cases were filed in the Appellate Court; in 1965-66 the number increased to 295 cases; in 1966-67 the number of cases filed in the Appellate Court increased to 312; and for 1967-68 the number is estimated to be 350. The backlog of pending cases also continues to grow. On July 1, 1965 the backlog of cases amounted to 97; on July 1, 1966 the figure increased to 184; and as of April 30, 1968 the number of pending cases rose to 227. The District feels that, as in the case of the judges of the Court of General Sessions, the judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals are carrying a heavy burden and fully deserve the proper consideration that would be extended to them by the compensation increase authorized by this section of the bill.

The salaries of the judges of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals were last increased in 1964 (Public Law 88-426). However, since that time professional salaries have risen substantially in government as well as in other areas of the economy. The proposed increases averaging 16.3 percent for the judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and 17 percent for the judges of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions would still remain below the overall average increase of the General Schedule of 19.6 percent since 1964. This does not include the additional increase of 4.9 percent approved for July 1, 1968.

The salary of the judge of the District of Columbia Tax Court has, for a number of years, been comparable to that of a judge of the Court of General Sessions. The District supports this comparability and recommends that it be maintained by amending H.R. 15678, as follows:

1. Redesignate section 3 as section 4.
2. Insert the following new section 3:

"Sec. 3. The first sentence of the second paragraph of section 2 of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, as amended (D. C. Code, sec. 47-2402), relating to the compensation of the person appointed to the District of Columbia Tax Court, is amended by striking out '\$23,500' and inserting in lieu thereof '\$27,500'."

The increase in the compensation for judges as provided by the bill will require the appropriation of an additional \$116,000 per year. This amount includes an increase in the salaries of the Chief Judge and Associate Judges of the Juvenile Court whose salaries, by operation of law (D. C. Code, sec. 11-1502 (d)), remain equal to the salaries of the Chief Judge and Associate Judges of the Court of General Sessions. If the legislation be amended to provide for a pay increase for the judge of the District of Columbia Tax Court, as the District has recommended in the preceding paragraph, the cost would be \$120,000.

In view of the growing needs of the District of Columbia courts and the heavy burdens now being carried by the judges, the District favors enactment of the bill.

The Government of the District of Columbia has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

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Assistant to the Commissioner
 (For: Walter E. Washington, Commissioner).