

Executive

26 October 1949

Office of General Counsel

Claims Resulting from Automobile Accidents

1. Forwarded herewith are two claims against the Agency for damages resulting from automobile accidents involving our cars.

2. The first claim, in the amount of \$32.75, resulted from an accident between the private car of Mr. John R. Keener and a Ford Vanette operated by a member of our Supply Division. Our car collided with the automobile directly ahead when it stopped suddenly in order to avoid hitting another car coming from the right at an intersection. The Traffic and Motor Vehicle Regulations for the District of Columbia provide in Section 34 that the driver of a vehicle shall not follow another car "more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard to the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and condition of the highway." The third vehicle, which was not identified, was apparently trying to beat the red light and may or may not have been negligent. In any event, we believe that our driver should have had his car under sufficient control to stop it. Under the circumstances, we are liable for the amount of the damages.

3. The second claim resulted from a collision between our shuttle bus and the private car of Mr. J. W. Brentlinger. The accident occurred on the road surrounding Memorial Circle as our bus was beginning to turn into Twenty Third Street. Traffic came to a sudden stop, and, as our driver glanced aside, the bus collided with a car immediately ahead and slightly to the left. Traffic conditions on the Circle are certainly far from satisfactory, but for that very reason a motorist is responsible for a higher degree of caution than would normally be observed on a straight road. Here again we feel that the liability is ours.

4. It is recommended that both claims be accepted for payment under the authority of 28 U.S.C.A. § 2672 (the so-called Federal Tort Claims Act). If they are approved, would you please so indicate in the lower left-hand corner of the sheet and return the file to this office in order that we can attach the necessary releases and forward the claims to the Fiscal Branch for payment.

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APPROVED: [REDACTED]

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