Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following privileged resolution from the Committee on Accounts. (H. Rept. No. 1184.)

The Clerk reads as follows:

House resolution 600.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House is hereby directed to pay out of the contingent fund of the House the sum of $1,000 to Willi J. Davis for extra services performed as clerk to the Committee on Water Power from January 21, 1918, the date when he began the discharge of such work.

With the following committee amendment:

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House is hereby directed to pay out of the contingent fund of the House the sum of $1,000 to W. J. Davis for extra services performed as clerk to the Committee on Water Power from January 21, 1918, the date when he began the discharge of such work.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SANFORD].

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, this is another one of those cases where one is compelled reluctantly to say no where one would be glad to say yes. I have made up my mind that in this last effort I make on the Accounts Committee I shall content myself with stating the facts concerning this resolution, and if the House, with the facts before it, is willing to take the responsibility, even in so small a matter as this, I am not.

The circumstances of this resolution are these: It provides for the extra payment to the amount of $1,000 for the services, well performed, by Mr. Davis for the Committee on Water Power since January 21, 1918. I desire to inform the House, first, that Mr. Davis is a competent, intelligent employee and has rendered this service, I am told, in a very efficient and intelligent fashion. But you should hear in mind that the extra compensation provided to be given is given to a man who since October 1917, has had compensation as clerk at a rate of $300 per month for services supposed to have been rendered for the Joint Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The Committee on Accounts asked him if he had any more duties to perform in return for the $300 a month, and he stated to the committee that last year there were no duties to perform, and he resigned his office.

But the Joint Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce persuaded him to remain as clerk, in spite of the fact that he has no duties to perform. That is the whole story. Is the House of Representatives going to give a man who is clerk at $300 per month, added or extra compensation of $1,000 because he is asked to perform, and is willing to perform, some duties for another committee? To be sure when we created the Water Power Committee we authorized that committee to hire a clerk, which they never did; exercising their own judgment, they took a clerk already on the rolls with nothing to do at $300 per month. The argument is that because he did something he did not have to do he should get something for it. My answer is that because he was getting money for doing nothing, he should not be extra paid money for doing something this in spite of the fact that the things he did he did well.

Mr. BLANTON. Mr. Speaker, is it in order to move to table this motion?

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I do not yield. This resolution is reported from the Committee on Accounts. As has already been stated by the gentleman from New York [Mr. SANFORD], Mr. Davis is acknowledged to be one of the best and most expert men along this line that is to be had. More than a year ago this joint committee was formed, consisting of five men from the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and five from the Public Lands Committee and five from the Agricultu-