

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

May 5, 1936.

Hon. Carl Hayden,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Hayden:

I have received your letter of April 9 regarding the destruction of personal effects of Mr. Roy W. James and Mr. M. J. Hanley as the result of a fire in the apartment quarters at Grand Canyon National Park.

The authority to compensate for loss of or damage to private property is limited to the provisions of the Act of Congress approved December 28, 1922 (42 Stat. 1066), and section 7 of Office Order No. 215, issued pursuant to the Act of Congress approved May 26, 1930 (46 Stat. 381). The former authorizes the head of the department to consider and adjust claims for damage to private property arising from the negligence and carelessness of Government employees while acting within the scope of their employment. The latter authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to reimburse, from regular National Park Service appropriations, employees and other owners of horses, vehicles, and equipment lost, damaged, or destroyed while in the custody of this Department under authorized contract or loan for necessary fire fighting, trail, or other official business.

As the damages sustained by Messrs. James and Hanley do not fall within the purview of the above acts, there appears no authority under existing law for adjustment or reimbursement of their claims by this Department.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY,

A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

Enclosure 994833