

RECONSTRUCTION
FINANCE CORPORATION ACT

AS AMENDED

AND

PROVISIONS OF THE
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND CONSTRUCTION
ACT OF 1932

PERTAINING TO
RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION



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This pamphlet contains the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act, as amended by the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932, and the provisions of Titles I and II of the latter act pertaining to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. For easier reference the new matter in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act has been printed in bold-face type

RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION ACT

AS AMENDED BY

THE EMERGENCY RELIEF AND CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1932

AN ACT To provide emergency financing facilities for financial institutions, to aid in financing agriculture, commerce, and industry, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be, and is hereby, created a body corporate with the name "Reconstruction Finance Corporation" (herein called the corporation). That the principal office of the corporation shall be located in the District of Columbia, but there may be established agencies or branch offices in any city or cities of the United States under rules and regulations prescribed by the board of directors. This act may be cited as the "Reconstruction Finance Corporation act."

SEC. 2. The corporation shall have capital stock of \$500,000,000, subscribed by the United States of America, payment for which shall be subject to call in whole or in part by the board of directors of the corporation.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000,000, for the purpose of making payments upon such subscription when called: *Provided*, That \$50,000,000 of the amount so subscribed, and the expansion of same through the notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations as set out in section 9 (as in force prior to the enactment of the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932)¹ shall be allocated and made available to the Secretary of Agriculture, which sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be expended by the Secretary of Agriculture for the purpose of making loans or advances to farmers in the several States of the United States in cases where he finds that an emergency exists as a result of which farmers are unable to obtain loans for crop production during the year 1932: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture shall give preference in making such loans or advances to farmers who suffered from crop failures in 1931. Such advances or loans shall be made upon such terms and conditions and subject to such regulations as the Secretary of Agriculture shall prescribe. A first lien on all crops growing, or to be planted and grown, shall, in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, be deemed sufficient security for such loan or advance. All such loans or advances shall be made through such agencies as the Secretary of Agriculture may designate, and in such amounts as such agencies, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, may determine. Any person who shall knowingly make any material false representation for the purpose of obtaining an advance or loan or in assisting in obtaining such advance or loan under this section shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished

¹ The words in black type were inserted by sec. 205 (b) of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932. Said sec. 205 (b) further provides that the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to continue making loans to farmers under the provisions of section 2, supra.

by a fine of not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

Receipts for payments by the United States of America for or on account of such stock shall be issued by the corporation to the Secretary of the Treasury and shall be evidence of the stock ownership of the United States of America.

SEC. 3. The management of the corporation shall be vested in a board of directors consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury (or, in his absence, the Under Secretary of the Treasury), who shall be a member ex officio, and six other persons appointed by the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.² Of the seven members of the board of directors not more than four shall be members of any one political party and not more than one shall be appointed from any one Federal reserve district. Each director shall devote his time not otherwise required by the business of the United States principally to the business of the corporation. Before entering upon his duties each of the directors so appointed and each officer of the corporation shall take an oath faithfully to discharge the duties of his office. Nothing contained in this or in any other act shall be construed to prevent the appointment and compensation as an employee of the corporation of any officer or employee of the United States in any board, commission, independent establishment, or executive department thereof. The terms of the directors appointed by the President of the United States shall be two years and run from the date of the enactment hereof and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Whenever a vacancy shall occur among the directors so appointed, the person appointed to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the director whose place he is selected to fill. The directors of the corporation appointed as hereinbefore provided shall receive salaries at the rate of \$10,000 per annum each. No director, officer, attorney, agent, or employee of the corporation shall in any manner, directly or indirectly, participate in the deliberation upon or the determination of any question affecting his personal interests, or the interests of any corporation, partnership, or association in which he is directly or indirectly interested.

SEC. 4. The corporation shall have succession for a period of ten years from the date of the enactment hereof, unless it is sooner dissolved by an Act of Congress. It shall have power to adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal; to make contracts; to lease such real estate as may be necessary for the transaction of its business; to sue and be sued, to complain and to defend, in any court of competent jurisdiction, State or Federal; to select, employ, and fix the compensation of such officers, employees, attorneys, and agents as shall be necessary for the transaction of the business of the corporation, without regard to the provisions of other laws applicable to the employment and compensation of officers or employees of the United States; to define

² As amended by sec. 208 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932, effective at the expiration of 10 days after the date of the enactment of said act, approved July 21, 1932. Prior thereto it was provided:

"The management of the corporation shall be vested in a board of directors consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, or, in his absence, the Undersecretary of the Treasury, the Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, and the Farm Loan Commissioner, who shall be members ex officio, and four other persons appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate."

Sec. 208 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932, referring to the members of the board of directors appointed prior to the enactment of the said act, further provides, "(b) nothing in this section shall be construed to affect in any manner the terms of office of the appointed members of the board of directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, nor to require their reappointment."

their authority and duties, require bonds of them and fix the penalties thereof, and to dismiss at pleasure such officers, employees, attorneys, and agents; and to prescribe, amend, and repeal, by its board of directors, by-laws, rules, and regulations governing the manner in which its general business may be conducted and the powers granted to it by law may be exercised and enjoyed, including the selection of its chairman and vice chairman, together with provision for such committees and the functions thereof as the board of directors may deem necessary for facilitating its business under this Act. The board of directors of the corporation shall determine and prescribe the manner in which its obligations shall be incurred and its expenses allowed and paid. The corporation shall be entitled to the free use of the United States mails in the same manner as the executive departments of the Government. The corporation, with the consent of any board, commission, independent establishment, or executive department of the Government, including any field service thereof, may avail itself of the use of information, services, facilities, officers, and employees thereof in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. To aid in financing agriculture, commerce, and industry, including facilitating the exportation of agricultural and other products the corporation is authorized and empowered to make loans,³ upon such terms and conditions not inconsistent with this act as it may determine, to any bank, savings bank, trust company, building and loan association, insurance company, mortgage loan company, credit union, Federal land bank, joint-stock land bank, Federal intermediate credit bank, agricultural credit corporation, livestock credit corporation, organized under the laws of any State⁴ or of the United States, including loans secured by the assets of any bank or savings bank⁵ that is closed, or in process of liquidation to aid in the reorganization or liquidation of such banks, upon application of the receiver or liquidating agent of such bank and any receiver of any national bank is hereby authorized to contract for such loans and to pledge any assets of the bank for securing the same: *Provided*, That not more than \$200,000,000 shall be used for the relief of banks (including savings banks)⁶ that are closed or in the process of liquidation.

All loans made under the foregoing provisions shall be fully and adequately secured. The corporation, under such conditions as it shall prescribe, may take over or provide for the administration and liquidation of any collateral accepted by it as security for such loans. Such loans may be made directly upon promissory notes or by way of discount or rediscount of obligations tendered for the purpose, or otherwise in such form and in such amount and at such interest or discount rates as the corporation may approve: *Provided*, That no loans or advances shall be made upon foreign securities or foreign

³ Sec. 207 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932 provides as follows: "No loan or advance shall be approved under this section or under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act, directly or indirectly, to any financial institution any officer or director of which is a member of the board of directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation or has been such a member within the twelve months preceding the approval of the loan or advance."

⁴ Sec. 206 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932 provides as follows: "The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered to make loans under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act to financial institutions, corporations, railroads, and other classes of borrowers specified in sec. 5 of such Act, organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. As used in this title and in sec. 15 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act the term 'State' includes the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico."

⁵ The words in black type were inserted by sec. 211 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932.

acceptances as collateral or for the purpose of assisting in the carrying or liquidation of such foreign securities and foreign acceptances. In no case shall the aggregate amount of advances made under this section to any one corporation and its subsidiary or affiliated organizations exceed at any one time 2% per centum⁶ of (1) the authorized capital stock of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation plus (2) the aggregate amount of bonds of the corporation authorized to be outstanding when the capital stock is fully subscribed.

Each such loan may be made for a period not exceeding three years, and the corporation may from time to time extend the time of payment of any such loan, through renewal, substitution of new obligations, or otherwise, but the time for such payment shall not be extended beyond five years⁷ from the date upon which such loan was made originally.⁸ The corporation may make loans under this section at any time prior to the expiration of one year from the date of the enactment hereof; and the President may from time to time postpone such date of expiration for such additional period or periods as he may deem necessary, not to exceed two years from the date of the enactment hereof. Within the foregoing limitations of this section, the corporation may also, upon the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, make loans to aid in the temporary financing of railroads and railways engaged in interstate commerce, to railroads and railways in process of construction, and to receivers of such railroads and railways,⁹ when in the opinion of the board of directors of the corporation such railroads or railways are unable to obtain funds upon reasonable terms through banking channels or from the general public and the corporation will be adequately secured: *Provided*, That no fee or commission shall be paid by any applicant for a loan under the provisions hereof in connection with any such application or any loan made or to be made hereunder, and the agreement to pay or payment of any such fee or commission shall be unlawful. Any such railroad may obligate itself in such form as shall be prescribed and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the corporation with respect to the deposit or assignment of security hereunder, without the authorization or approval of any authority, State or Federal, and without compliance with any requirement, State or Federal, as to notification, other than such as may be imposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission and the corporation under the provisions of this section.

SEC. 5a. The corporation is authorized and empowered to accept drafts and bills of exchange drawn upon it which grow out of transactions involving the exportation of agricultural or other products actually sold or transported for sale subsequent to the enactment hereof and in process of shipment to buyers in foreign countries: *Provided*, That the corporation shall not make any such acceptances growing out of transactions involving the sale or shipment of arma-

⁶ As amended by sec. 202 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932. Prior to the amendment the maximum limit was 5 per centum of the authorized capital stock plus the aggregate amount of bonds originally authorized to be issued.

⁷ Cf. sec. 201 (g) of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932, *infra*, p. 15.

⁸ The second sentence of the third paragraph of sec. 5 was repealed by sec. 203 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932. The sentence read: "Except as provided in section 5a hereof, no loan or advancement shall be made by the corporation for the purpose of initiating, setting on foot, or financing any enterprise not initiated, set on foot, or undertaken prior to the adoption of this act: *Provided*, That the foregoing limitation shall not apply to loans made to agriculture or livestock credit corporations, or Federal land banks, joint-stock land banks, or Federal intermediate-credit banks, nor to loans made to banks for the purpose of financing agricultural operations."

⁹ See *supra*, footnote 4, p. 3.

ments, munitions, or other war materials, or the sale or shipment into countries which are at war of any merchandise or commodities except food and supplies for the actual use of noncombatants. No bill of exchange or draft shall be eligible for acceptance if such bill shall have at time of acceptance a maturity of more than twelve months. All drafts and bills of exchange accepted under this section shall be in terms payable in the United States, in currency of the United States, and in addition to the draft or bill of exchange shall at all times be fully secured by American securities deposited as collateral or shall be guaranteed by a bank or trust company of undoubted solvency organized under the laws of the United States or any State, Territory, or insular possession thereof: *Provided*, That such securities shall not include goods stored or in process of shipment in foreign countries or the obligation of any foreign government, corporation, firm, or person.

SEC. 6. Section 5202 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended, is hereby amended by striking out the words "War Finance Corporation Act" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act."

SEC. 7. All moneys of the corporation not otherwise employed may be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States subject to check by authority of the corporation or in any Federal reserve bank, or may, by authorization of the board of directors of the corporation, be used in the purchase for redemption and retirement of any notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations issued by the corporation, and the corporation may reimburse such Federal reserve bank for their services in the manner as may be agreed upon. The Federal reserve banks are authorized and directed to act as depositaries, custodians, and fiscal agents for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in the general performance of its powers conferred by this Act.

SEC. 8. In order to enable the corporation to carry out the provisions of this Act and the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932, the Treasury Department, the Federal Farm Loan Board, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal reserve banks, and the Interstate Commerce Commission are hereby authorized, under such conditions as they may prescribe, to make available to the corporation, in confidence, such reports, records, or other information as they may have available relating to the condition of applicants with respect to whom the corporation has had or contemplates having transactions under either of such Acts, or relating to individuals, associations, partnerships, corporations, or other obligors whose obligations are offered to or held by the corporation as security for loans under either of such Acts, and to make, through their examiners, or other employees for the confidential use of the corporation, examinations of applicants for loans. Every applicant for a loan under either of such Acts shall, as a condition precedent thereto, consent to such examination as the corporation may require for the purposes of either of such Acts and that reports of examinations by constituted authorities may be furnished by such authorities to the corporation upon request therefor.¹⁰

SEC. 9. The corporation is authorized and empowered, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to issue, and to have out-

¹⁰ Bold-face type indicates new matter inserted by sec. 204 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932.

standing at any one time in an amount aggregating not more than three times [see footnote 11] its subscribed capital, its notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations; such obligations to mature not more than five years from their respective dates of issue, to be redeemable at the option of the corporation before maturity in such manner as may be stipulated in such obligations, and to bear such rate or rates of interest as may be determined by the corporation: *Provided*, That the corporation, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, may sell on a discount basis short-term obligations payable at maturity without interest. The notes, debentures, bonds, and other obligations of the corporation may be secured by assets of the corporation in such manner as shall be prescribed by its board of directors: *Provided*, That the aggregate of all obligations issued under this section shall not exceed three times [see footnote 11] the amount of the subscribed capital stock. Such obligations may be issued in payment of any loan authorized by this act or may be offered for sale at such price or prices as the corporation may determine with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The said obligations shall be fully and unconditionally guaranteed both as to interest and principal by the United States and such guaranty shall be expressed on the face thereof. In the event that the corporation shall be unable to pay upon demand, when due, the principal of or interest on notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations issued by it, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay the amount thereof, which is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and thereupon to the extent of the amounts so paid the Secretary of the Treasury shall succeed to all the rights of the holders of such notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations. The Secretary of the Treasury, in his discretion, is authorized to purchase any obligations of the corporation to be issued hereunder, and for such purpose the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to use as a public-debt transaction the proceeds from the sale of any securities hereafter issued under the second Liberty bond act, as amended; and the purposes for which securities may be issued under the second Liberty bond act, as amended, are extended to include any purchases of the corporation's obligations hereunder. The Secretary of the Treasury may, at any time, sell any of the obligations of the corporation acquired by him under this section. All redemptions, purchases, and sales by the Secretary of the Treasury of the obligations of the corporation shall be treated as public-debt transactions of the United States. Such obligations shall not be eligible for discount or purchase by any Federal reserve bank. The Secretary of the Treasury, at the request of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, is authorized to market for the corporation its notes, debentures, bonds, and other such obligations, using therefor all the facilities of the Treasury Department now authorized by law for the marketing of obligations of the United States. The proceeds of the obligations of the corporation so marketed shall be deposited in the same manner as

¹¹ Amended by sec. 203 (a) of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932 which provides: "The amount of notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered under sec. 9 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act to have outstanding at any one time is increased to an aggregate of six and three-fifths times its subscribed capital stock."

proceeds derived from the sale of obligations of the United States, and the amount thereof shall be credited to the corporation on the books of the Treasury.¹²

SEC. 10. Any and all notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations issued by the corporation shall be exempt both as to principal and interest from all taxation (except surtaxes, estate, inheritance, and gift taxes) now or hereafter imposed by the United States, by any Territory, dependency, or possession thereof, or by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority. The corporation, including its franchise, its capital, reserves, and surplus, and its income shall be exempt from all taxation now or hereafter imposed by the United States, by any Territory, dependency, or possession thereof, or by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority; except that any real property of the corporation shall be subject to State, Territorial, county, municipal, or local taxation to the same extent according to its value as other real property is taxed.

SEC. 11. In order that the corporation may be supplied with such forms of notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations as it may need for issuance under this act, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to prepare such forms as shall be suitable and approved by the corporation, to be held in the Treasury subject to delivery, upon order of the corporation. The engraved plates, dies, bed pieces, and so forth, executed in connection therewith shall remain in the custody of the Secretary of the Treasury. The corporation shall reimburse the Secretary of the Treasury for any expenses incurred in the preparation, custody and delivery of such notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations.

SEC. 12. When designated for that purpose by the Secretary of the Treasury, the corporation shall be a depository of public money, except receipts from customs, under such regulations as may be prescribed by said Secretary; and it may also be employed as a financial agent of the Government; and it shall perform all such reasonable duties, as depository of public money and financial agent of the Government, as may be required of it. Obligations of the corporation shall be lawful investments, and may be accepted as security, for all fiduciary, trust, and public funds the investment or deposit of which shall be under the authority or control of the United States or any officer or officers thereof.

SEC. 13. Upon the expiration of the period of one year within which the corporation may make loans, or of any extension thereof by the President under the authority of this act, the board of directors of the corporation shall, except as otherwise herein specifically authorized, proceed to liquidate its assets and wind up its affairs. It may with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury deposit with the Treasurer of the United States as a special fund any money belonging to the corporation or from time to time received by it in the course of liquidation or otherwise, for the payment of principal and interest of its outstanding obligations or for the purpose of redemption of such obligations in accordance with the terms thereof, which fund may be drawn upon or paid out for no other purpose. The corporation may also at any time pay to the Treasurer of the

¹² Bold-faced type indicates new matter inserted by sec. 209 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932.

United States as miscellaneous receipts any money belonging to the corporation or from time to time received by it in the course of liquidation or otherwise in excess of reasonable amounts reserved to meet its requirements during liquidations. Upon such deposit being made, such amount of the capital stock of the corporation as may be specified by the corporation with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury but not exceeding in par value the amount so paid in shall be canceled and retired. Any balance remaining after the liquidation of all the corporation's assets and after provision has been made for payment of all legal obligations of any kind and character shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts. Thereupon the corporation shall be dissolved and the residue, if any, of its capital stock shall be canceled and retired.

SEC. 14. If at the expiration of the ten years for which the corporation has succession hereunder its board of directors shall not have completed the liquidation of its assets and the winding up of its affairs, the duty of completing such liquidation and winding up of its affairs shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury, who for such purpose shall succeed to all the powers and duties of the board of directors of the corporation under this Act. In such event he may assign to any officer or officers of the United States in the Treasury Department the exercise and performance, under his general supervision and direction, of any such powers and duties; and nothing herein shall be construed to affect any right or privilege accrued, any penalty or liability incurred, any criminal or civil proceeding commenced, or any authority conferred hereunder, except as herein provided in connection with the liquidation of the remaining assets and the winding up of the affairs of the corporation, until the Secretary of the Treasury shall find that such liquidation will no longer be advantageous to the United States and that all of its legal obligations have been provided for, whereupon he shall retire any capital stock then outstanding, pay into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts the unused balance of the moneys belonging to the corporation, and make the final report of the corporation to the Congress. Thereupon the corporation shall be deemed to be dissolved.

SEC. 15. The corporation shall make and publish a report quarterly¹³ of its operations to the Congress stating the aggregate loans made to each of the classes of borrowers provided for and the number of borrowers by States¹⁴ in each class. The statement shall show the assets and liabilities of the corporation, and the first report shall be made on April 1, 1932, and quarterly thereafter. It shall also show the names and compensation of all persons employed by the corporation whose compensation exceeds \$400 a month.

SEC. 16. (a) Whoever makes any statement knowing it to be false, or whoever willfully overvalues any security, for the purpose of obtaining for himself or for any applicant any loan, or extension thereof by renewal, deferment of action, or otherwise, or the accept-

¹³ Sec. 201 (b) of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932 provides: "The Reconstruction Finance Corporation shall submit monthly to the President and to the Senate and the House of Representatives (or the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, if those bodies are not in session) a report of its activities and expenditures under this section and under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act, together with a statement showing the names of the borrowers to whom loans and advances were made, and the amount and rate of interest involved in each case."

¹⁴ Sec. 200 of Title II of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932 provides that the term "State" as used in sec. 15 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act includes the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

ance, release, or substitution of security therefor, or for the purpose of influencing in any way the action of the corporation, or for the purpose of obtaining money, property, or anything of value, under this Act, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

(b) Whoever (1) falsely makes, forges, or counterfeits any note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, in imitation of or purporting to be a note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, issued by the corporation, or (2) passes, utters or publishes, or attempts to pass, utter or publish, any false, forged or counterfeited note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, purporting to have been issued by the corporation, knowing the same to be false, forged or counterfeited, or (3) falsely alters any note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, issued or purporting to have been issued by the corporation, or (4) passes, utters or publishes, or attempts to pass, utter or publish, as true any falsely altered or spurious note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, issued or purporting to have been issued by the corporation, knowing the same to be falsely altered or spurious, or any person who willfully violates any other provision of this Act, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

(c) Whoever, being connected in any capacity with the corporation, (1) embezzles, abstracts, purloins, or willfully misapplies any moneys, funds, securities, or other things of value, whether belonging to it or pledged or otherwise entrusted to it, or (2) with intent to defraud the corporation or any other body politic or corporate, or any individual, or to deceive any officer, auditor, or examiner of the corporation, makes any false entry in any book, report, or statement of or to the corporation, or, without being duly authorized, draws any order or issues, puts forth or assigns any note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or draft, bill of exchange, mortgage, judgment, or decree thereof, or (3) with intent to defraud participates, shares, receives directly or indirectly any money, profit, property or benefit through any transaction, loan, commission, contract, or any other act of the corporation, or (4) gives any unauthorized information concerning any future action or plan of the corporation which might affect the value of securities, or, having such knowledge, invests or speculates, directly or indirectly, in the securities or property of any company, bank, or corporation receiving loans or other assistance from the corporation, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

(d) No individual, association, partnership, or corporation shall use the words "Reconstruction Finance Corporation" or a combination of these three words, as the name or a part thereof under which he or it shall do business. Every individual, partnership, association, or corporation violating this prohibition shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

(e) The provisions of sections 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, and 117 of the Criminal Code of the United States (U. S. C., title 18, ch. 5, secs. 202 to 207, inclusive) in so far as applicable, are extended to apply to contracts or agreements with the corporation under this

Act, which for the purposes hereof shall be held to include loans, advances, discounts, and rediscounts; extensions and renewals thereof; and acceptances, releases, and substitutions of security therefor.

SEC. 17. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act shall for any reason be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Act, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

PROVISIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF AND CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1932, TITLES I AND II, PERTAINING TO THE RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION

AN ACT To relieve destitution, to broaden the lending powers of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and to create employment by providing for and expediting a public-works program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that this act may be cited as the "Emergency relief and construction act of 1932."

TITLE I—RELIEF OF DESTITUTION

SECTION 1. (a) The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered to make available out of the funds of the corporation the sum of \$300,000,000, under the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, to the several States and Territories, to be used in furnishing relief and work relief to needy and distressed people and in relieving the hardship resulting from unemployment, but not more than 15 per centum of such sum shall be available to any one State or Territory. Such sum of \$300,000,000 shall, until the expiration of two years after the date of enactment of this act, be available for payment to the governors of the several States and Territories for the purposes of this section, upon application therefor by them in accordance with subsection (c), and upon approval of such applications by the corporation.

(b) All amounts paid under this section shall bear interest at the rate of 3 per centum per annum, and, except in the case of Puerto Rico and the Territory of Alaska, shall be reimbursed to the corporation, with interest thereon at the rate of 3 per centum per annum, by making annual deductions, beginning with the fiscal year 1935, from regular apportionments made from future Federal authorizations in aid of the States and Territories for the construction of highways and rural post roads, of an amount equal to one-fifth of the share which such State or Territory would be entitled to receive under such apportionment, except for the provisions of this section, or of an amount equal to one-fifth of the amounts so paid to the governor of such State or Territory pursuant to this section and all accrued interest thereon to the date of such deduction, whichever is the lesser, until the sum of such deductions equals the total amounts paid under this section and all accrued interest thereon. Whenever any such deduction is made, the Secretary of the Treasury shall immediately pay to the corporation an amount equal to the amount so deducted. If any State or Territory shall, within two years after the date of enactment of this act, enter into an agreement with the corporation for the repayment to the corporation of the amounts paid under this section to the governor of such State or Territory, with interest thereon as herein provided, in such installments and upon such terms as may be agreed upon, then the deduction under this

subsection shall not be made unless such State or Territory shall be in default in the performance of the terms of such agreement. In the case of a default by the State or Territory in any such agreement, the agreement shall thereupon be terminated and reimbursement of the unpaid balance of the amount covered by such agreement shall be made by making annual deductions in the manner above provided (beginning with the fiscal year next following such default) from regular apportionments made to such State or Territory from future Federal authorizations in aid of the States and Territories for the construction of highways and rural post roads. Before any amount is paid under this section to the Governor of Puerto Rico or of the Territory of Alaska, Puerto Rico or the Territory of Alaska shall enter into an agreement with the corporation for the repayment of such amount with interest thereon as herein provided, in such installments and upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon.

(c) The governor of any State or Territory may from time to time make application for funds under this section, and in each application so made shall certify the necessity for such funds and that the resources of the State or Territory, including moneys then available and which can be made available by the State or Territory, its political subdivisions, and private contributions, are inadequate to meet its relief needs. All amounts paid to the governor of a State or Territory under this section shall be administered by the governor, or under his direction, and upon his responsibility. The governor shall file with the corporation and with the auditor of the State or Territory (or, if there is no auditor, then with the official exercising comparable authority) a statement of the disbursements made by him under this section.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the corporation to deny an otherwise acceptable application under this section because of constitutional or other legal inhibitions or because the State or Territory has borrowed to the full extent authorized by law. Whenever an application under this section is approved by the corporation in whole or in part, the amount approved shall be immediately paid to the governor of the State or Territory upon delivery by him to the corporation of a receipt therefor stating that the payment is accepted subject to the terms of this section.

(e) Any portion of the amount approved by the corporation for payment to the governor of a State or Territory shall, at his request, and with the approval of the corporation, be paid to any municipality or political subdivision of such State or Territory if (1) the governor makes as to such municipality or political subdivision a like certificate as provided in subsection (c) as to the State or Territory, and (2) such municipality or political subdivision enters into an agreement with the corporation for the repayment to the corporation of the amount so paid, with interest at the rate of 3 per centum per annum, at such times, and upon such other terms and conditions, as may be agreed upon between the corporation and such municipality or political subdivision. The amount paid to any municipality or political subdivision under this subsection shall not be included in any amounts reimbursable to the corporation under subsection (b) of this section.

(f) As used in this section the term "Territory" means Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

TITLE II—LOANS BY RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION

SEC. 201. (a) The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered—

(1) to make loans to, or contracts with, States, municipalities, and political subdivisions of States, public agencies of States, of municipalities, and of political subdivisions of States, public corporations, boards and commissions, and public municipal instrumentalities of one or more States, to aid in financing projects authorized under Federal, State, or municipal law which are self-liquidating in character, such loans or contracts to be made through the purchase of their securities, or otherwise, and for such purpose the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized to bid for such securities: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, in carrying out the provisions of this paragraph, from purchasing securities having a maturity of more than ten years;

(2) to make loans to corporations formed wholly for the purpose of providing housing for families of low income, or for reconstruction of slum areas, which are regulated by State or municipal law as to rents, charges, capital structure, rate of return, and areas and methods of operation, to aid in financing projects undertaken by such corporations which are self-liquidating in character;

(3) to make loans to private corporations to aid in carrying out the construction, replacement, or improvement of bridges, tunnels, docks, viaducts, waterworks, canals, and markets, devoted to public use and which are self-liquidating in character;

(4) to make loans to private limited dividend corporations to aid in financing projects for the protection and development of forests and other renewable natural resources, which are regulated by a State or political subdivision of a State and are self-liquidating in character; and

(5) to make loans to aid in financing the construction of any publicly owned bridge to be used for railroad, railway, and highway uses, the construction cost of which will be returned in part by means of tolls, fees, rents, or other charges, and the remainder by means of taxes imposed pursuant to State law enacted before the date of enactment of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932; and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is further authorized and empowered to purchase bonds of any State, municipality, or other public body or agency issued for the purpose of financing the construction of any such bridge irrespective of the dates of maturity of such bonds.

For the purposes of this subsection a project shall be deemed to be self-liquidating if such project will be made self-supporting and financially solvent and if the construction cost thereof will be returned within a reasonable period by means of tolls, fees, rents, or other charges, or by such other means (other than by taxation) as may be prescribed by the statutes which provide for the project. All loans and contracts made by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in respect of projects of the character specified in paragraphs (1) to (5) of this subsection shall be subject to the conditions that no convict labor shall be directly employed on any such project, and that (except in

executive, administrative, and supervisory positions), so far as practicable, no individual directly employed on any such project shall be permitted to work more than thirty hours in any one week, and that in the employment of labor in connection with any such project preference shall be given, where they are qualified, to ex-service men with dependents.

The provisions of this subsection shall apply with respect to projects in Puerto Rico and the Territories to the same extent as in the case of projects in the several States, and as used in this subsection the term "States" includes Puerto Rico and the Territories.

(b) The Reconstruction Finance Corporation shall submit monthly to the President and to the Senate and the House of Representatives (or the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, if those bodies are not in session) a report of its activities and expenditures under this section and under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act, together with a statement showing the names of the borrowers to whom loans and advances were made, and the amount and rate of interest involved in each case.

(c) In order that the surpluses of agricultural products may not have a depressing effect upon current prices of such products, the corporation is authorized and directed to make loans, in such amounts as may in its judgment be necessary, for the purpose of financing sales of such surpluses in the markets of foreign countries in which such sales can not be financed in the normal course of commerce; but no such sales shall be financed by the corporation if, in its judgment, such sales will affect adversely the world markets for such products: *Provided, however*, That no such loan shall be made to finance the sale in the markets of foreign countries of cotton owned by the Federal Farm Board or the Cotton Stabilization Corporation.

(d) The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered to make loans to bona fide institutions, organized under the laws of any State or of the United States and having resources adequate for their undertakings, for the purpose of enabling them to finance the carrying and orderly marketing of agricultural commodities and livestock produced in the United States.

(e) The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is further authorized to create in any of the twelve Federal land-bank districts where it may deem the same to be desirable a regional agricultural credit corporation with a paid-up capital of not less than \$3,000,000, to be subscribed for by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and paid for out of the unexpended balance of the amounts allocated and made available to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act. Such corporations shall be managed by officers and agents to be appointed by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under such rules and regulations as its board of directors may prescribe. Such corporations are hereby authorized and empowered to make loans or advances to farmers and stockmen, the proceeds of which are to be used for an agricultural purpose (including crop production), or for the raising, breeding, fattening, or marketing of livestock, to charge such rates of interest or discount thereon as in their judgment are fair and equitable, subject to the approval of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and to rediscount with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the various Federal reserve banks and Federal intermediate credit banks any

paper that they acquire which is eligible for such purpose. All expenses incurred in connection with the operation of such corporations shall be supervised and paid by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under such rules and regulations as its board of directors may prescribe.

(f) All loans made under this section, and all contracts of the character described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a), shall be fully and adequately secured. The corporation, under such conditions as it shall prescribe, may take over or provide for the administration and liquidation of any collateral accepted by it as security for such loans. Such loans shall be made on such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with this act, as the corporation may prescribe, and may be made directly upon promissory notes or by way of discount or rediscount of obligations tendered for the purpose, or otherwise in such form and in such amount and at such interest or discount rates as the corporation may approve: *Provided*, That no loans or advances (except loans under subsection (c)) shall be made upon foreign securities or foreign acceptances as collateral.

(g) Each such loan may be made for a period not exceeding three years, and the corporation may, from time to time, extend the time of payment of any such loan, through renewal, substitution of new obligations, or otherwise, but the time for such payment shall not be extended beyond five years from the date upon which such loan was made originally: *Provided*, That loans or contracts of the character described in subsection (a) may be made for a period not exceeding ten years: *Provided further*, That loans or contracts of the character described in paragraph (1) or (5) of subsection (a) may be made for a period exceeding ten years when it is the judgment of the board of directors of the corporation that it is necessary to purchase securities as provided in such paragraphs and that it is not practicable to require the reimbursement of the corporation, within ten years, through the repurchase or payment of such securities, or in any other manner.

(h) The corporation may make loans under this section at any time prior to January 23, 1934.

(i) No fee or commission shall be paid by any applicant for a loan under the provisions of this section in connection with any such application or any loan made or to be made under this section, and the agreement to pay or payment of any such fee or commission shall be unlawful.

(j) No loan under this section shall be made to a railroad or to a receiver of a railroad except on the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Any railroad may obligate itself in such form as shall be prescribed and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the corporation with respect to the deposit or assignment of security hereunder, without the authorization or approval of any authority, State or Federal, and without compliance with any requirement, State or Federal, as to notification other than such as may be imposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission and the corporation under the provisions of this section.

Sec. 202. The last sentence of the second paragraph of section 5 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act is amended by striking out "5" and inserting "2%" in lieu thereof.

Sec. 203. The second sentence of the third paragraph of section 5 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act is hereby repealed.

SEC. 204. Section 8 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 8. In order to enable the corporation to carry out the provisions of this act and the emergency relief and construction act of 1932, the Treasury Department, the Federal Farm Loan Board, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal reserve banks, and the Interstate Commerce Commission are hereby authorized, under such conditions as they may prescribe, to make available to the corporation, in confidence, such reports, records, or other information as they may have available relating to the condition of applicants with respect to whom the corporation has had or contemplates having transactions under either of such acts, or relating to individuals, associations, partnerships, corporations, or other obligors whose obligations are offered to or held by the corporation as security for loans under either of such acts, and to make, through their examiners or other employees for the confidential use of the corporation, examinations of applicants for loans. Every applicant for a loan under either of such acts shall, as a condition precedent thereto, consent to such examination as the corporation may require for the purposes of either of such acts and that reports of examinations by constituted authorities may be furnished by such authorities to the corporation upon request therefor."

SEC. 205. (a) The amount of notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered under section 9 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act to have outstanding at any one time is increased to an aggregate of six and three-fifths times its subscribed capital stock.

(b) The first proviso of section 2 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act is amended by inserting after "as set out in section 9" the following: "(as in force prior to the enactment of the emergency relief and construction act of 1932)," but the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to continue making loans to farmers under the provisions of such section 2.

SEC. 206. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered to make loans under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act to financial institutions, corporations, railroads, and other classes of borrowers specified in section 5 of such act, organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. As used in this title and in section 15 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act the term "State" includes the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

SEC. 207. No loan or advance shall be approved under this section or under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act, directly or indirectly, to any financial institution any officer or director of which is a member of the board of directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation or has been such a member within the twelve months preceding the approval of the loan or advance.

SEC. 208. (a) The first sentence of section 3 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act is amended, effective at the expiration of ten days after the date of enactment of this act, to read as follows: "The management of the corporation shall be vested in a board of directors consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury (or, in his absence, the Under Secretary of the Treasury), who shall be a member ex officio, and six other persons appointed by the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate."

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect in any manner the terms of office of the appointed members of the board of directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, nor to require their reappointment.

SEC. 209. Section 9 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"The Secretary of the Treasury, at the request of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, is authorized to market for the corporation its notes, debentures, bonds, and other such obligations, using therefor all the facilities of the Treasury Department now authorized by law for the marketing of obligations of the United States. The proceeds of the obligations of the corporation so marketed shall be deposited in the same manner as proceeds derived from the sale of obligations of the United States, and the amount thereof shall be credited to the corporation on the books of the Treasury."

SEC. 210. Section 13 of the Federal reserve act, as amended, is further amended by adding after the second paragraph thereof the following new paragraph:

"In unusual and exigent circumstances, the Federal Reserve Board, by the affirmative vote of not less than five members, may authorize any Federal reserve bank, during such periods as the said board may determine, at rates established in accordance with the provisions of section 14, subdivision (d), of this act, to discount for any individual, partnership, or corporation, notes, drafts, and bills of exchange of the kinds and maturities made eligible for discount for member banks under other provisions of this act when such notes, drafts, and bills of exchange are indorsed and otherwise secured to the satisfaction of the Federal reserve bank: *Provided*, That before discounting any such note, draft, or bill of exchange for an individual or a partnership or corporation the Federal reserve bank shall obtain evidence that such individual, partnership, or corporation is unable to secure adequate credit accommodations from other banking institutions. All such discounts for individuals, partnerships, or corporations shall be subject to such limitations, restrictions, and regulations as the Federal Reserve Board may prescribe."

SEC. 211. The first paragraph of section 5 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. To aid in financing agriculture, commerce, and industry, including facilitating the exportation of agricultural and other products the corporation is authorized and empowered to make loans, upon such terms and conditions not inconsistent with this act as it may determine, to any bank, savings bank, trust company, building and loan association, insurance company, mortgage loan company, credit union, Federal land bank, joint-stock land bank, Federal intermediate credit bank, agricultural credit corporation, livestock credit corporation, organized under the laws of any State or of the United States, including loans secured by the assets of any bank or savings bank that is closed, or in process of liquidation to aid in the reorganization or liquidation of such banks, upon application of the receiver or liquidating agent of such bank and any receiver of any national bank is hereby authorized to contract for such loans and to pledge any assets of the bank for securing the same: *Provided*, That not more than \$200,000,000 shall be used for the relief of banks (including savings banks) that are closed or in the process of liquidation."