

REINSTATEMENT OF SOLDIERS DISCHARGED FROM
COMPANIES B, C, AND D, TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RELATING

TO THE EXTENSION OF THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE SOLDIERS DISCHARGED WITHOUT HONOR FROM COMPANIES B, C, AND D, TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.

MARCH 11, 1908.—Read; referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the SENATE:

On December 12, 1906, the Secretary of War by my direction issued the following order:

“Applications to reenlist from former members of Companies B, C, and D, Twenty-fifth Infantry, who were discharged under the provisions of Special Orders, No. 266, War Department, November 9, 1906, must be made in writing and be accompanied by such evidence, also in writing, as the applicant may desire to submit to show that he was neither implicated in the raid on Brownsville, Tex., on the night of August 13, 1906, nor withheld any evidence that might lead to the discovery of the perpetrators thereof.”

Proceedings were begun under this order; but shortly thereafter an investigation was directed by the Senate, and the proceedings under the order were stopped. The Senate committee intrusted with the work has now completed its investigation, and finds that the facts upon which my order of discharge of November 9, 1906, was based are substantiated by the evidence. The testimony secured by the committee is therefore now available, and I desire to revive the order of December 12, 1906, and to have it carried out in whatever shape may be necessary to achieve the purpose therein set forth; any additional evidence being taken which may be of aid in the ascertainment of the

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truth. The time limit during which it was possible to reinstate any individual soldier in accordance with the terms of this order has, however, expired. I therefore recommend the passage of a law extending this time limit, so far as the soldiers concerned are affected, until a year after the passage of the law, and permitting the reinstatement by direction of the President of any man who in his judgment shall appear not to be within the class whose discharge was deemed necessary in order to maintain the discipline and morale of the Army.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 11, 1908.*

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