

JOINT RESOLUTION

FOR SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT UPON THE OFFICIAL ACTS OF JOHN L. BROWN AS AUDITOR OF STATE.

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, the Senate and House, concurring :

That whereas grave and serious charges are made against one John L. Brown, now
2 discharging the duties of Auditor of State, as more fully appears in the annexed copy
3 of an affidavit, purporting to have been made by one Bruce Reid, as to the facts occurring
4 while said "Reid" was in the employ of said Brown, as assistant examiner of Fire Insur-
5 ance Companies.

6 I, BRUCE REID, being duly sworn, say that I was employed by H. S. Vail on the 16th
7 of May, 1884, to assist said Vail in examining Fire Insurance Companies in
8 Iowa, under the instructions of Auditor Brown of that State. The price to be
9 paid me, Bruce Reid, was agreed upon at sixty dollars (\$60) per month, and I at once
10 entered upon my duties. I was engaged in assisting in the examinations of the fol-
11 lowing companies : The Hawkeye, State, Monarch, and Des Moines, up to the 17th
12 of August, 1884. On the 18th of August, 1884, the examination of the Burlington
13 Insurance Company was begun, and on the following day, while I was in Burling-
14 ton, my pay was raised to seventy-five dollars (\$75) per month, and the raise was to
15 include the previous month, and I received during the examination of other Iowa
16 Companies, the said seventy-five dollars per month, and I remained in the employ of
17 said Vail until the first of December, 1884, when my salary was again increased to
\$83.33 per month, and I remained in the employ of said Vail until 1st of March, 1885.
I now positively know that said Vail, during the whole of the time, until, say the
1st of January, 1885, charged the several Insurance Companies of Iowa for my
services at the rate of five dollars (\$5) per day, and two dollars and a half (\$2.50) per
evening, when employed at night or in case of extra hours work.

At said Vail's request, I signed vouchers at the latter rate and received a check in
full for same, which again at Vail's request was endorsed by me, and immediately
returned to said Vail. He then paid me at the rate stated above, viz. : \$60 and \$75 a
month. This was done to cover up his method of getting the difference between
what was paid me and what he collected from the Companies for my services, which
28 Vail told me was to be turned over to Auditor Brown for election campaign pur-
29 poses.

30 In the case of the examination of the Burlington Insurance Company, I received
31 for my services not to exceed one hundred dollars, (\$100) at the rate of \$75 per month,
32 and said Vail collected for said services the sum of two hundred and seventy-five
33 dollars and sixty three cents (\$275.63) from the Burlington Insurance Company.

(Signed,)

BRUCE REID.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
COUNTY OF COOK,) ss.

Personally appeared BRUCE REID, signer of the foregoing affidavit, who made
2 solemn oath to the truth of the same before me this 20th day of March, A. D. 1885.

(Signed,)

ALLEN W. PECK,

Notary Public.

And that whereas, it is charged that said Brown has extorted large sums of money from the
2 banking institutions and the Insurance Companies of this State as examining fees, by him-
3 self and his appointees, which fees he has refused and failed to turn over to the Treasurer
4 of State, although commanded to do so by the Chief Executive of State.

And whereas, the ex-Attorney General, the Hon. Smith McPherson, and the present
2 Attorney-General, have each furnished to the ex-Executive, the Hon. Buren R. Sherman,
3 their written opinions, that said fees were not perquisites of the office of State Auditor, that
4 said Brown has and still refuses to account to the State for the same, and for such refusal
5 to so account the late Governor refused to approve the official bond of said Brown as
6 Auditor of State, and appointed an Auditor of State who qualified as such Auditor.

And whereas, his Excellency, William Larrabee, Governor of the State, has removed the
2 appointee of his predecessor and installed said Brown in the office as Auditor of State
3 without investigating the charges against said Brown heretofore narrated.

Therefore, be it resolved that a committee of five (5) be appointed, two (2) from the Senate
2 and three (3) from the House, which committee shall consist of at least one (1) Democrat
3 from each branch of the General Assembly, who are instructed to examine into the conduct
4 and acts of said Brown, his employes and appointees in the examinations of the Fire
5 Insurance Companies and Banking Institutions of this State, and the fees collected for the
6 same and the charges made in said copy of said affidavit, and report their findings at as
7 early date as practicable to the General Assembly.

That said committee when appointed shall have the power to compel the attendance of
2 witnesses, administer oaths, and shall have access to all of the records in the office of Auditor
3 of State, and shall be authorized to employ such clerical force as in their judgment may
4 seem necessary.



JOINT RESOLUTION

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE INTO THE CONDITION OF THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE, THE OFFICIAL ACTS AND THE SUSPENSION OF J. L. BROWN, AND MATTERS CCONNECTED THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, Upon January 9, 1885, Hon. B. R. Sherman, as Governor of Iowa, appointed
2 a commission to investigate the State offices, on whose report said Governor suspended Hon.
3 J. L. Brown from the office of Auditor of State, and appointed Hon. J. W. Cattell as acting
4 Auditor ; and,

WHEREAS, Upon March 3, 1885 ; said Governor issued an executive order in which he de-
2 clared said Cattell to have been appointed Auditor of State to fill the vacancy caused by the
3 failure of said Brown to qualify as Auditor of State for the term commencing upon the first
4 Monday of January, 1885 ; and,

WHEREAS, Upon January 23, 1886, Hon. Wm. Larrabee, Governor of Iowa, having receiv-
2 ed from the Attorney-General of the State, his official opinion on the *status* of the case, issu-
3 ed an executive order in which he declared the bond of said Brown, for the term last above
4 named, to have been approved by him and directed said Cattell to turn over to said Brown
5 the public funds and property belonging or pertaining to the office of State Auditor, and
7 did also certify that said Brown had accounted for the public funds and property which as
8 said Auditor said Brown had had in his control during said term ; and,

WHEREAS, There have appeared in the public prints of the State various charges affect-
2 ing the correctness and integrity of said Auditor's office during said term ending on the
3 first Monday of January, 1885, and that excessive and illegal fees had by said office been de-
4 manded and received from insurance and banking companies, and that funds have been re-
5 tained by said office or those connected with it, which should have been paid into the State
6 Treasury, and that other irregularities existed in connection with said Auditor's office.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, that a com-
2 mittee of six, consisting of three from the Senate and three from the House, not less than
3 one on the part of the Senate and one on the part of the House shall be Democrats, be ap-
4 pointed, who shall examine and report as to, if any inaccuracies, irregularities or want of in-
5 tegrity, existing in the said Auditor's office during term ending on the first Monday of Jan-
6 uary 1885, or since said date, as to any vouchers pertaining to the business of that office which
6 have been lost or destroyed or not properly kept—as to any excessive or illegal fees or pay-
7 ments demanded or received by said Auditor, or any person employed in his office or under

8 him, as to any moneys received and retained by said Auditor, or persons under him,
9 which should have been paid into the State Treasury, as to what grounds, existed in
10 the acts of the said Auditor or the condition of his said office, justifying the said suspension
11 of said Brown, as to what warrants have been issued and moneys paid out of the State treas-
12 ury because of said suspension or because of litigation connected therein or arising therefrom
13 and to whom and for what purposes paid, and by whom ordered or audited, and that said
14 committee examine and report as to said Auditor's office since January 1, 1883, in any other
15 respects said committee may deem proper, and that said committee be and hereby is author-
16 ized and empowered to compel the attendance of witnesses, administer oaths, employ a clerk
17 : and a stenographer to send for persons and papers, to sit during the session of either branch
18 of the General Assembly and report by bill or otherwise at any time.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That the Governor is hereby requested to furnish said committee
2 with full copies of all records, correspondence, files and papers within his office, in anywise
3 relating to any of the matters above enumerated ; and the Auditor of State is hereby re-
4 quired to submit to said committee for its examination such of the records, books, files and
5 papers of his office as said committee may request.