That $1200 be and the same are hereby appropriated to enable the War Department to make the required survey & to furnish the estimate & plan, called for by a resolution of the Senate of the 16th inst. in reference to the Canal Basin at Georgetown" — Also the following form of a letter to the War Dept. whilst the resolution is in transitu — from the Chairman of the Com.

"As it is possible the estimate for the Canal Basin at Georgetown, may not be made in time for the present session of Congress, I have to request for the use of the Committee, answers to the following questions —

1st. Considering the personal knowledge which already exists of the locality and its convenience for immediate personal inspection, cannot an amount be appropriated with safety to begin the works, the plan & final estimate to be laid before the Senate as soon as practicable".

This will enable Col A to furnish full & satisfactory information in reply to the queries; and an appropriation based on it may still be made this session, even if the estimates are not ready

The bill handed I presume by you to Mr. Pratt will meanwhile lie still —

Having great confidence in the judgement of Col Abert, we had better be governed by it; but he wishes for obviously correct reasons, to be himself entirely kept out of view, in any advice or opinion he may give us — as he wishes to appear only officially when called on by the proper authority — I think if possible you had better come over, as this is a matter of great public interest in which you are the prime mover —

In haste

Very truly yrs

G Washington

MdHS 1974 [1589-1646]