Form 73

NOMINATION

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EMK

No papers

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 6th DISTRICT,

Charleston, S. C., (City.) September 28 (Date.) 1917.

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

Name, Otto Urban, Legal residence, Illinois.

Position, Second Assistant Keeper. Salary, $456.00 per annum, base.

Location, Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla. Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective, October 12, 1917, [1] ~~the actual date of entrance on duty,~~ or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, ---- Former salary, ----

Location, ----

Rank on eligible list, 3d Rating, Asst. Keeper Percentage, 80%, Other eligibles considered:

William L. Jackson (G), George McK. Cohen (D)

Previous incumbent, Clyde P. Twiford Services terminated, Close of October 5, 1917.

Reason, Resigned.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: Quarters are provided by the Government.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. OCT 1 - 1917, 191

T. C. Shaw
Secretary, 5th Civil Service District.

H. L. Beck
Inspector, 6th Lighthouse District.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

OCT 3 1917

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

E. C. Gillette
Acting Commissioner

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

PF-EMK

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

September 28, 1917.

FIFTH CIVIL SERVICE DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OCT 1 1917
LIGHT
OCT 3 1917
HOUSES

Secretary Fifth Civil Service District,
Post Office Building, Atlanta, Ga.

Sir:

Referring to the nomination of Otto Urban for the position of Second Assistant Keeper at Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla.-

I have to state that the reason John P. Reisinger, the second on the register, was not considered for this position is that on August 29, 1917, he informed that office in answer to notice of rating sent him, that he would not be able to accept a position for some time as he had enrolled in the Naval Reserve Force. Copy of his letter is enclosed. It is requested that the action of this office in suspending his eligibility be approved.

In answer to letter to eligibles sent George McK Cohen, the third on the register, offering consideration for the position of Second Assistant Keeper at Jupiter Inlet Light Station, he declined to accept the position and stated that he did not desire his name restored to the register. His name has therefore been stricken from the register.

Respectfully,

Farrow
Secretary, Local Civil Service Board.

Forwarded:

M. L. Deck
Lighthouse Inspector.

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2800 Form 73 EMK

NOMINATION

LIGHT JUN 19 1918 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 6th DISTRICT,

Charleston, S.C., June 17 1918 (City.) (Date.)

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

APPOINTMENTS

Action recommended, Promotion ~~and Appointment~~.

Name, Otto Urban. Born in Switzerland Indorsed Legal residence, Illinois.

Position, Keeper. Salary, $564.00 p.a., base. Pay to 1st asst

Location, Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla. Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective June 25, 1918, {~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Second Assistant Keeper Former salary, $456.00 perannum, base.

Location, Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla.

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, Reinhard Heisser Services terminated, Close of March 22, 1918.

Reason, Resigned.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: Quarters are provided by the Government.

Selection regularly subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, , 191

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN JUN 21 1918 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

H. L. Beck

Secretary, Civil Service District. Inspector, 6th Lighthouse District.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

JUN 20 1918

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

1918 JUN 20 PM 2 44

H. B. Bowman

Acting Commissioner

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

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LIGHT
JUL 8 1918
HOUSES

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

JUL 8 1918 9 23 AM

I, Otto Urban

do solemnly [1] swear (See below) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So HELP ME GOD.

Otto Urban
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 1 day of July, A. D. 1918.

(Affix official seal here)

JUL 1 1918 8 A.M.

[4] (Name) Chas F Sears Assn

(Official title) Jupiter Fla

My commission expires

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present Keeper	$564.00 p.a.	Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla.
Former [5] 2d Asst.Keeper	456.00 p.a.	same.

(The above should be filled in by the district officer before sending to appointee)

EMK

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, 6th District

Charleston, S.C., (Address), July 5, 1918. (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on July 1, 1918. (Date)

CARDED

1918 JUL 8 AM 10 56

H L Beck
Superintendent of Lighthouses. (Signature, followed by title)

[1] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.
[2] Insert here "sworn to" or "affirmed," as the case may be.
[3] The oath may be taken any time after the date of appointment and prior to the payment of compensation, but no compensation shall be paid until the oath is executed in proper form.
[4] This oath should be taken before a justice of the peace, notary public, judge, clerk of a court, a chief clerk in the office of a lighthouse inspector or other employee in the Lighthouse Service designated by a chief clerk, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs or postmaster, as neither officer has power to administer oaths in such cases. In case the officer administering the oath has no seal, his official character should be duly certified to by the clerk of the proper court or the proper county clerk, except in the case of chief clerks in the offices of lighthouse inspectors and other employees in the Lighthouse Service designated by them, who are not required to have a seal.
[5] Give this information in all cases where new oath is required.
Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

11—944

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Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

EMK

I, Otto Urban

do solemnly [1] swear (See below) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So HELP ME GOD.

Otto Urban
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 16th day of October, A. D. 1917

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) C. L. Edwards

(Official title) Notary Public

My commission expires Aug. 14th 1918.

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present 2d Asst.Keeper, Lighthouse Service.	$456.00 p.a. base.	Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla.
Former [5] ------	------	------

(The above should be filled in by the district officer before sending to appointee)

EMK.

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, 6th District

Charleston, S.C., (Address) October 18, 1917. (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on October 16, 1917. (Date)

In the absence & by direction of the Inspector,

Tom H. Gregg

Superintendent 6th Lighthouse District.
(Signature, and official title)

[1] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.

[2] Insert here "sworn to" or "affirmed," as the case may be.

[3] The oath may be taken any time after the date of appointment and prior to the payment of compensation, but no compensation shall be paid until the oath is executed in proper form.

[4] This oath should be taken before a justice of the peace, notary public, judge, clerk of a court, a chief clerk in the office of a lighthouse inspector or other employee in the Lighthouse Service designated by a chief clerk, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs or postmaster, as neither officer has power to administer oaths in such cases. In case the officer administering the oath has no seal, his official character should be duly certified to by the clerk of the proper court or the proper county clerk, except in the case of chief clerks in the offices of lighthouse inspectors and other employees in the Lighthouse Service designated by them, who are not required to have a seal.

[5] Give this information in all cases where new oath is required.

Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

11—944

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

HLB:EAW

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

1922 SEP 19 AM 11 49

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Hydro.
Engr. Cons.
Mar Engr.
Personnel.
Accounts.
Contrzets.
Chf Clk.
Bcd. Comm.
Comm.

FILE

Mr. Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Kpr.,
Jupiter Inlet Light Station,
Jupiter, Fla.

September 18, 1922.

Comm
Rec file
Think would have been better to inform IAK orally
9/20 Sep 20

Through the Keeper,

Subject: Misconduct of member of family.

1. Paragraph 52 of Instructions to Employees, U.S. Lighthouse Service, reads as follows:

> "The immediate families of employees may occupy such quarters on reservations as may be designated by the superintendent.
> Employees will be held responsible for the personal conduct of their families residing on premises belonging to the Lighthouse Service."

TC

2. When at Jupiter Inlet Light Station on September 13, 1922, 1st Assistant Superintendent T. H. Gregg made an investigation of the alleged misconduct of your wife. The evidence against her, which is now in my possession, is so conclusive as to leave little doubt of her conduct having been such as to warrant her having been requested to leave the station.

3. She is no longer authorized to live at the station nor to visit it. Mr. Charles Seabrook, Keeper, has been directed to see that these instructions are observed.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Copy to Commissioner of Lighthouses for his information and files. The evidence in this case is conclusive but the details are too unsavory to be made the subject of a report.

H L Beck

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

1922 OCT 25 PM 3 56

PF/mlb

Notice
Engr. Cont.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts
Contracts
Chf Clk.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

October 24th, 1922.

Rec. hold pending disposition charges which 6th brought against this employee yesterday

Commissioner of Lighthouses,
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Keeper, Jupiter Light ~~Station,~~ - Longevity Pay.

1. Mr. Otto Urban, 1st Assistant Keeper, Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Florida, completed five years concinuous service in the Lighthouse Service at the close of October 15, 1922, and is therefore entitled to longevity pay at the rate of $60 per annum.

2. It is recommended that notice of change in salary be issued to the above named employee, changing his pay from $660 base per annum to $720 base per annum, including $60 per annum longevity pay, effective October 16, 1922.

For and in the Absence of Superintendent of Lighthouses:

P. Farrow,
Chief Clerk.

10/26/22

Hold

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PO WM 40 GR.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

TELEGRAM

10/25/22 wired to H
copy to Dept

Charleston, S.C., Oct. 25, 1922.

LIGHTHOUSES

1922 OCT 25 AM 10 57

Lighthouse Commissioner,
Washington, D.C.

Seabrook keeper Jupiter Light station reports first assistant keeper Otto Urban criminally assaulted keepers daughter seabrook wired to suspend Urban submit charges and take such legal action under laws State of Florida as case justifies approval suspension requested effective today.

Farrow.

10:42 A.M.

Hydro.
Engr. Cons.
Mar Engr.
~~Personnel~~
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf Clk.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

Rec Oll & Dept a.o.
JO Oct 25

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HLB:EAw

1922 NOV 14 PM 3 41

Hydro.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel.
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

November 13, 1922.

Rec to Dept that 6th be auth to prefer chgs against Urban under art 521 Rep P140 Personal conduct & make further rec after his ans rec'd in accordance w C.S. rule

Commissioner of Lighthouses,

Subject: Otto Urban - suspension.
Reference: Bureau telegram of Oct. 25, 1922.

Enclosures: 1. Report of P. Farrow, Chief Clerk, dated Nov. 7, 1922.
2. Transcript of Court record. (Pres. 8 mstr. to employs)

1. I was at the Bureau in Washington when Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Keeper, Jupiter Inlet Light Station was suspended from duty. Upon my return to Charleston there were a number of matters in the office demanding my personal attention. I also desired to see and confer with the superintendent on general duty upon his arrival about November 2nd. I therefore decided to have the investigation at the light station made by Mr. P. Farrow, Chief Clerk. His report is enclosed.

2. On October 31st Urban sent the following telegram to this office: "Discharged by court no evidence found". A transcript of the court testimony is inclosed.

3. Urban is still under suspension. Ever since the receipt of Mr. Farrow's report I have been in a quandary as to what recommendation to make. As to Charles Seabrook, the keeper, he may remain at the station. He need be transferred only in the event of further trouble developing that would appear to make it unwise to permit him to remain there.

4. Urban has been acquitted by the court. Had he not been tried and acquitted I should probably have recommended his dismissal from the Lighthouse Service on the charge of immoral conduct. I believe he was guilty of some act of depravity but there is no competent evidence to prove it. I also have an instinctive feeling that he was aware of and acquiesced in his wife's immoral conduct before she was expelled from the reservation. There is no evidence to substantiate this belief other than that Mr. Gregg reports that he listened, apparently unmoved, to two Naval radio operators testify that they and others had often had improper relations with her. But to discharge Urban now for moral depravity after he has been acquitted by a court of law would be seized on by his partisans as an act of rank injustice. It is understood that the community at Jupiter is torn asunder. Most of the decent respectable people take sides with Seabrook and the other kind with Urban.

5. There are no other charges that can be brought against Urban. He learned what his duties were soon after he entered the service and he stolidly performed them - no more and no less. He did his work very well. On inspections I always found his quarters neat and clean. He had not been in the service long when he was promoted from 2nd Assistant to 1st Assistant but that was merely because of lack of suitable experienced men for promotion during the period of the late war.

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6. Urban can not be permitted to return to duty at Jupiter Inlet Light Station. Serious trouble would almost certainly ensue if it were permitted. I can not recommend his transfer to any other station in the 6th District. Such action would be resented by the keepers on whom he might be imposed. I do not want him to serve under my supervision at any station. Apparently I can not recommend his dismissal from the Service. There seems to be nothing else to recommend but that the Bureau, for administrative reasons, transfer him to some other district. In the event of being transferred his traveling expenses should be paid by the Lighthouse Service.

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

L&J Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C. November 18, 1922.
Inclosures.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information and with recommendation that the Bureau be authorized to advise the Sixth Superintendent to prefer charges against Urban in accordance with Instructions to Employees, 1915, Par. 8, Personal Conduct, and to submit further report upon receipt of Urban's reply. Attention in this connection is invited to Bureau indorsement of October 25, 1922, to the Department, relative to the suspension of Urban. Inclosed is transcript of Court record of the proceedings in the trial of Urban, together with copy of report of November 7, 1922 of the investigation of the conditions at this light station made by the Chief Clerk of the Sixth District.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

F:MAW

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

November 7, 1922.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S. C.

1. In accordance with instructions contained in your order of October 30, 1922 to proceed to West Palm Beach and Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla., for the purpose of investigating conditions at Jupiter Inlet Light Station, I left Charleston at 11:20 P.M., October 30, 1922 and arrived at West Palm Beach, Fla., Tuesday, October 31st, 10:30 P.M.

Wednesday - Wednesday morning I called on Mr. George Coleman, States Attorney, and learned that the case against Mr. Otto Urban had come up before Justice of the Peace Houghton for preliminary hearing on Saturday October 28, 1922. The case was continued until Tuesday, October 31st. Urban was discharged from lack of evidence. I called on Justice of the Peace Houghton, who heard the case, and took up the matter of getting testimony as he told me that Urban's lawyer had arranged to have the Court stenographer take the evidence. The Court stenographer was out of town attending circuit court at Lauderdale but was expected to return to West Palm Beach the next day.

Former Keeper Joseph Wells called on me at the hotel while I was having my dinner and after dinner we went back to the Court House and attempted by long distance to find out whether Mr. Bryan, Court stenographer, would make a copy of his notes and forward them to me. We were unable to locate Mr. Bryan. While waiting at the Court House I met Mr. John Zeigler, Attorney for Urban, who lives at Jupiter, and he offered to take me to Jupiter when he went home at 5 P.M. I rode with Mr. Zeigler in his automobile to Jupiter and stopped at the "Wayside Inn" for lodging and supper. Mr. Zeigler had little to say about the case but believed that Urban was innocent. After supper Mr. Zeigler carried me to the ~~Rxxxx~~ Light Station and I proceeded to the Keeper's dwelling and talked with the keeper's wife and then went on up in the tower with Keeper Seabrook. I talked to him for some time and as a heavy rain came up I spent the night at the station.

Mr. Seabrook was not surprised at the decision of the Justice of the Peace as the only evidence against Urban was that of the little girl. Mr. Seabrook seemed to consider the telegram from this office telling to take such action as the case justified as an order from the office to act. He stated that he would not have subjected the child to such an ordeal otherwise. He claims that the character of the witnesses for Urban do not represent the best element of the people of Jupiter and desired me to interview some of the people

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of Jupiter whom he considered the best people of the community. Seabrook's statement was practically the same as shown in transcript of testimony of hearing.

Thursday - The better part of the day was practically spent with Mr. Seabrook interviewing men living near Jupiter. The first men I interviewed were Messrs. Rogers, two brothers who run an automobile repair shop. One of them had lived there only a very short time and knew little of the people. The other one had lived there some years ago. Both brothers thought that Mr. Seabrook had the respect of the good people of the settlement but knew nothing against Mr. Urban as he always appeared to them quiet and had little to say.

Mr. Griffin, R.R. Station Agent, knew Mr. Seabrook well and stated that he was well thought of in the community. He was not much impressed with some of Mr. Urban's character witnesses.

Mr. Kelly Oglesby knew nothing about ~~Mr. Seabrook~~ the Urban matter and very little of Urban himself. He thought well of Mr. Seabrook and thought that he stood well in the community; he stated that the Urbans did not associate with the better element. He was not much impressed with the character witnesses of Urban.

Mr. John Wilson, farmer, near Jupiter, stated that he had lived in Jupiter about 8 years, that he thought well of Mr. Seabrook and did not think that the character witnesses of Urban represented the better element of Jupiter, and did not care who know that he said so. He struck me as being a particularly strong and honest man.

Mr. Rood thought well of Mr. Seabrook and did not think that the character witnesses of Urban represented the best element of Jupiter. He did not care to be dragged into the case and was rather uneasy he said, not for himself, but on account of his family as he had received a letter from Mrs. Urban which he considered of a threatening nature. He had destroyed the letter. Mr. Rood appeared to be a serious, honest man. He has 11 children and was uneasy about his 2 daughters, both young girls, as he said the letter had mentioned that their characters might some time be attacked.

Mr. Harry Duboise and his two grown sons spoke in the highest terms of the Seabrooks. Mr. Duboise has lived in Jupiter over 20 years. He knew Mr. Urban slightly but kn knew very little about him. The Duboise family do not consider thatUrban's character witnesses represent the better element of Jupiter.

I returned to Jupiter Station with Mr. Seabrook and found Mr. H. H. Jones the Congregational Minister, waiting for us as Mr. Seabrook had asked him to call at the station. Mr. Jones was 2nd Asst. Keeper of Jupiter Light Station both under Mr. Wells and Mr. Seabrook. While he was 2nd Asst. Keeper at the station Mr. Urban was the 1st Asst. Keeper. He stated that he never cared much for Mr. Urban and had an understanding when he went to the station, with the Principal Keeper Wells that he was to take all instructions direct from Mr. Wells. He stated that he would not have served with Urban under any other condition. He believed that Mr. Seabrook had the backing of the best elemnnt and did not consider all the men who testified to

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Urban's character as men of high standing. Mr. Jones was more liberal about some of Urban's witnesses. He considered Mr. M. H. Hays and Mr. Otto Matthaus as being fairly good men. He also said that their going to the trial as character witnesses for Urban and their standing for Urban would have its effect and that he was afraid that the charge of criminal assault against Urban without sufficient evidence to convict him might lead a number of folks to think that Urban was being persecuted. Mr. Jones had received a clipping from a newspaper which contained an article on "Slander" with several of the sentences underscored. He feels that some one is trying to convey the idea to him that he had better be careful or he will have some scandal of his own to bother about. Mr. Jones stated that he did not leave the service on account of Urban as he had only entered it temporarily but he would not serve under Urban and only took orders from Keepers Wells and Seabrook while he was employed at the station. He considered Urban a man absolutely without feeling. It seems that Urban had been married and had a child by his first wife. While the three keepers were at the top of the tower doing some work, a letter was brought up by one of the children at the station for Mr. Urban. This letter announced the death of his little girl. He read the letter and put it in his pocket and it was some time after before any of the people around him knew of the death of his child. Mr. Jones also stated that soon after he came in the service it became apparent to him that Mrs. Urban was a very sick woman and that he went to Principal Keeper Wells and suggested that they go "fifty fifty" in paying her expenses in the hospital. Mr. Well agreed and Mrs. Urban was taken to the hospital. Mr. Jones stated that he was never asked about paying the bill and he believes that Mr. Wells paid the entire bill. The point he was trying to bring out was that when Urban came back he stated that he would not have to bother now about waiting on his wife, and Mr. Jones further said that he believed that Urban would have let the woman die - that he had no feeling whatever about her condition. Mr. Jones is of the opinion that the matter at the station will not quiet down as long as Mr. Seabrook is there as a great deal of feeling has been aroused among a certain element, some of them ignorant people, and he doubts if they will let up on Seabrook. Mr. Jones believes in Mr. Seabrook however, and considers him a good man and thinks a great deal of his family. Mr. Jones states that he has been drawn into the trouble there on account of Mr. Gregg telling Mrs. Urban the statements that he made to Mr. Gregg and that threats have been made against him on that account. He states that he notices that slurs have been made about him by some of the children of the lower element when he has passed them.

Mr. Clarence King, 2nd Assistant Keeper, states that he knows nothing about Mr. & Mrs. Urban, that he has very little to do with either of them, that Urban was a quiet man attending to his duties as far as he knew. The only statement that I could get from him was that he would not remain at the station if Urban was allowed to return to duty there. He stated that he was not afraid but that his wife would not stay. In this connection, while I think of it, Mr. Seabrook also said he could not stay at the station if Mr. Urban was allowed to return there.

Mr Thomas Zeigler, an old man who has lived at Jupiter for years and father of Mr. John Zeigler, Attorney, stated that he had known Urban ever since he had been at the light station, and considered him a man of good reputation. He stated that he knew Seabrook also and considered that he was bringing up the case against Urban in order to get him away from the station.

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Chief Radio Operator Mott- Mott is a "hard boiled egg" with a long service in the Navy. He is a bachelor and has been stationed at Jupiter for about 5 years. He is on good terms with all of the Lighthouse employees and appears to be on good terms with both factions around Jupiter. He has three men under him at the Radio Station, two of them married. He says he has more trouble with his two married men and their wives than Seabrook has with his force. He stated that as far as he knew Urban was a quiet man and performed his duty, and that he had never seen Mrs. Urban act other than as a lady. Mott had a very high opinion of Mrs. Seabrook and Mrs. and Mr. King. He said that they minded their own business. Mott stated that Mr. Seabrook came to him the morning after the night of the alleged assault of the child and stated that he had just seen the little girl and other children going to school as usual and was very much surprised when Mr. Seabrook came to him for assistance to get the sheriff. He said he questioned Mr. Seabrook, realizing the serious nature of the charge but could get little out of him. He assisted Mr. Seabrook in getting messages to the sheriff and having the warrant issued and a deputy sent for Urban. He said he had noticed Urban playing with all the children a great deal and he could not understand how Mr. Seabrook allowed the children to play with Urban after the trouble they had had with Mrs. Urban. He thinks Mr. Seabrook lacks executive ability and listens to petty gossip, particularly from the wife of the radio cook who, Mott states, he would not believe on her oath. He thinks Seabrook is a good conscientious man with an excellent wife, but lacks ability to cope with the situation. He said that while he had never seen anything himself, it was his private opinion that Mrs. Urban was immoral.

Radio Operator Webb- Webb knew nothing about the Urban assault but stated that he had not changed any evidence heretofore given to Mr. Gregg. It had been reported to me that there had been a change of opinion by the radio operators.

Machinist Cavanaugh, Radio Station, stated that he knew nothing about the case agains Urban and did not know anything against him; that he appeared to him to be a quiet man, attentive to his duties. Mr. Seabrook, he considered an excellent man. From personal observation and from what he had heard from men who knew Mrs. Urban well, he considered her an immoral woman.

Mr. A. M. Ard, R.R. Bridge Keeper - Mr. Ard said that Mr. Seabrook was trying to get rid of Urban and that he heard Seabrook say that he had offered Urban a transfer and that he would not take one but that he would get him away from the station. That he considered that Mr. Seabrook was trying to get the Urbans in trouble in order to get the Weather Bureau job or for some other reason.

Mr. M. H. Hays drives a "bus" that carries the children to school. He testified to Urban's character and said Mr. Seabrook was trying to "frame up" on Urban in order to get him away from the station.

Mr. Otto Matthaus runs a garage. He made about the same statement as Mr. Hays. Mr. Hays and Mr. Matthaus are the two men who Mr. Jones mentioned as being better men than the other character witnesses of Urban.

Radio Operator Mott carried me from Jupiter Station to West Palm Beach. That evening Mr. Wells called to tell me that they had not yet been able to get a copy of the cour stenographer's notes. Mr. Wells appeared to me to be paying the bill for the court stenographer to take the notes. Mr. Wells had promised to follow the matter up and get the transcript before I left. Mr. Bryan was expected to return to West Palm Beac every day, so I decided to remain over and secure the transcript.

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Friday - Friday I spent most of the day at the Court House as Mr. Bryan was expected there any time. As he did not arrive on Friday I decided to run down to Miami on Saturday and get the transcript in time to catch the evening train. Upon arriving at Palm Beach Saturday evening Mr. and Mrs. Urban met me at the hotel saying that Mr. Wells was out of town for the night but had made arrangements to get the transcript Sunday. Sunday morning Mr. Wells and myself met Mr. Bryan at the Court House and I secured a copy of the transcript, attached hereto. It was necessary however, to go to the home of the Justice of the Peace Houghton who lives at Lake Worth in order to secure the statement of the doctor's examination as that evidence was given on Tuesday and the Court stenographer was not there. The Court Stenographer was only at the hearing conducted on Saturday, October 28th. I left Palm Beach by the next train which left at 7:40 P.M. for Charleston and arrived in Charleston Monday 5:05 P.M., November 6, 1922.

2. From statements made to me by a number of respectable persons living in the vicinity of Jupiter Inlet Light Station I am convinced that Mrs. Urban is not a fit person to be allowed to live on the Lighthouse Reservation. I believe that Mrs. Urban and her friends and Mr. Urban's friends have worked up feeling against Keeper Seabrook and against officers in charge of this district in an attempt to embarrass the service. It is claimed by the Urbans that all they desire is to clear Mrs. Urban's good name. I interviewed Mr. Urban and he stated that it was a "frame up" against him. Mrs. Urban also claims that she is being persecuted by the keeper and his friends.

*before the charge of criminal assault was made.

3. The return of Mrs. Urban to the Lighthouse Station can not be allowed by the Lighthouse Service under any circumstances. The charge of criminal assault against Mr. Urban in no way affect her case but has complicated the situation. It had become necessary to take up the question of what disposition was to be made of 1st Assistant Keeper Urban.* Urban's wife, and his and her friends have circulated reports that Mrs. Urban has been unjustly treated by the keeper and Lighthouse Service authorities, and they were threatening legal proceedings against persons who have testified that she has an unsavory reputation and is unfit to remain on the Lighthouse Reservation. Mr. Coleman, State Attorney, told me that the matter had been taken up with him before charge of criminal assault was brought against Mr. Urban, and when the charge of criminal asuault was brought against Urban he was told that action in the case would be deferred for a while. Though Urban was at the station attending to his duties he knew of the efforts of his wife and friends to embarrass and discredit the keeper of the station.

4. The charge of criminal assault made by the Keeper against 1st Asst. Keeper Urban on October 25, 1922, coming after the other trouble at the station has complicated the situation. Although the case was dismissed by Justice of the Peace Houghton on account of lack of evidence, whether or not he was guilty is known only to him and the little girl. The evidence did not convince me that he was guilty, nor do I feel sure he was innocent.

5. I am satisfied that Urban should not be allowed to return to duty at Jupiter Inlet Light Station. Both the principal keeper and 2nd assistant keeper said they would not remain at the station if Urban was allowed to return there.

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6. I can not recommend that 1st Asst. Keeper Urban be dismissed for the charge brought against him of criminal assault on the keeper's child, nor can I recommend that Urban with his wife be transferred to any other station. So far as I was able to ascertain Urban attended to his duties at the station, but I believe that the Lighthouse Service would be better off without his services in view of the nature of the trouble in which he and his wife have been involved.

7. In the minds of some of the people that I interviewed the impression exists that Urban is being persecuted by the principal keeper and Lighthouse Service authorities. I feel that as the serious charge of criminal assault against Urban has been dismissed that he should be offered a transfer to another station with the understanding that his wife will ~~be~~ not be allowed to accompany him.

8. With regard to Keeper Seabrook I believe him to be a conscientious and faithful employee, entitled to every consideration, but I believe that for his own good and the good of his family that he should be transferred to another station. I also believe that it would be for the good of the service to transfer Seabrook for the following reasons:

(1) There are some people living in the settlement who believe that Keeper Urban is being persecuted and that it was a "frame up" against him.

(2) That as long as Mr. Seabrook is at Jupiter Light Station these people will continue to make trouble for him and the service. The trouble has unfortunately been taken up by the two factions who compose the settlement and in a way has become mixed up in the political situation there.

(3) That some of the men who gave testimony as to Mrs. Urban's character have become involved and threatened with legal action for conspiracy against Mrs. Urban's character. I believe that some of these men while friendly to Mr. Seabrook are tired of the matter and want the affair to quiet down, and this I do not think will happen as long as Mr. Seabrook is at the station.

P. FARROW.
Chief Clerk

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

November 22, 1922.

The Acting Secretary:

With reference to the recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses dated November 18, on the memorandum of the 6th Superintendent dated November 15, in the case of Otto Urban, in view of the fact that the charges against Urban have been passed on by a civil court, I think it would be advisable that the matter be further considered by the Solicitor's office. In view of the partizan feeling between the friends of Mr. Urban and those of Mr. Seabrook, it is questionable to me whether the retention of Mr. Seabrook at Jupiter will not be detrimental to the service and whether therefore his transfer to another station would not be advisable. I therefore recommend reference of the case to the acting Solicitor for his consideration and opinion.

1922 NOV 23 PM 12 20

Clifford Sterling
Chief of Appointment Division.

Reference to the acting Solicitor as suggested approved.

J. Louis Klein
Acting Secretary of Commerce

G

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Form 84

SPECIAL
1922 DEC 6 AM 11 53

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

PF-CAR

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, Sixth DISTRICT.

Charleston, S.C., December 5, 1922.

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES,
Washington, D. C.

No reply has been received from the Bureau to communication (letter) from this office dated November 13,1922, on the subject of suspension of Otto Urban, First Assistant Keeper, Jupiter Inlet Light Station. Urban was suspended October 25, 1922, and is still under suspension, the Station has therefore been without the services of the First Assistant Keeper for nearly six weeks. Unless action can be taken at an early date-it is proposed to send Additional Keeper Lonergan,to Jupiter Inlet Light Station,for duty until final action is taken on the suspension of Urban.

H.L.Beck
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES.

CJL
Inclosure.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
December 7, 1922.

Returned to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S.C. This matter was submitted to the Secretary of Commerce on November 18, 1922, by indorsement, copy of which is inclosed. The Bureau is informally advised that the matter was submitted to the Solicitor of the Department for consideration, and that action will be taken in the case in a few days. Upon receipt of Department action, you will be promptly advised.

J. S. CONWAY
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

To be forwarded in duplicate. Indicate in blank space inclosed in parentheses character of the communication, that is, whether letter, indorsement, Form 80, Form 97, etc.

11—6363

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

December 19, 1922.

Memorandum for the Secretary:

The accompanying case relative to charges against Otto Urban, Assistant Keeper of Jupiter Inlet Light Station, presents unusual features which call for careful examination. It was referred to the Acting Solicitor with a view to judgment rather than legal opinion, but as it is purely an administrative matter he has refrained from giving judgment.

Urban is accused by Keeper Seabrook of criminally assaulting his nine year old daughter. He was tried and acquitted of the charge by the court. He had meanwhile been suspended and the District Superintendent now asks authority to prefer charges against him with a view to his dismissal. Apart from the action of the court, there is no question of the undesirability of retaining Urban in the service. The attitude and action of Keeper Seabrook is not above criticism, and the neighborhood appears to be divided into two parts based upon the individual feeling towards and opinion of the two men, and I do not think the removal of Urban will entirely assuage the strong partisan feeling which exists. Local conditions are such that they can not but have a demoralizing effect on the work of the station and give a derogatory opinion of the service generally.

I would suggest the following course:

1. Authorization of general charges, not confined to that of which he was acquitted by the court. (This is requested by the Superintendent and approved by the Bureau).

2. The transfer of Keeper Seabrook to another station without loss of compensation or status as soon as opportunity arises, he to be advised of this decision when the Urban case is disposed of. (The Lighthouse Bureau does not include such action in its recommendation).

Clifford Harding
Chief of Appointment Division.

1-- ___APPROVED: CHH
2-- ___APPROVED: CHH

Secretary of Commerce.

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Form 84

PF:EAW

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1923 JAN 8 AM 8 52

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, Sixth DISTRICT.

Charleston, S. C., January 5, 1923.

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES,
Washington, D. C.

No reply has been received from the Bureau to communication (letter) from this office dated November 13, 1922, on the subject of suspension of Otto Urban, First Assistant Keeper, Jupiter Inlet Light Station. Urban was suspended October 25, 1922 and is still under suspension. It appears under the regulations, Par.412, that a suspension initiated by the Superintendent of a district can only be made for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Hydro.
Engr. Com.
Mar Engr.
~~Personnel~~
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf Clk.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

1923 JAN 6 PM 1 54

January 5, 1923.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Referring to the communication dated November 13th, of the Sixth Superintendent, and the indorsement of the Bureau thereon of November 18, 1922, in the matter of conditions existing at Jupiter Inlet Light Station, the Department has given careful attention to the case and is of the opinion that apart from the action of the court there is no question of the undesirability of retaining Otto Urban in the service. Also that the attitude and action of keeper, Charles Seabrook, is not above criticism, and in view of the partizan feeling existing in the vicinity of the station, it is not thought that the removal of Urban will satisfactorily alleviate the situation and remove conditions which are such that they can not but have a demoralizing effect on the work of the station and convey a derogatory opinion of the service generally.

The Department therefore has approved the following action:

1. Authorization of general charges not confined to that of which he was acquitted by the court, against the assistant keeper Urban.

2. The transfer of keeper Seabrook to another station without loss of compensation or status as soon as opportunity arises, he to be advised of this decision when the Urban case is disposed of.

Hydro.
Engr. Dem.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel.
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf Clk.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - -

LGJ Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C. January 10, 1923.

CH/PG Copy to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C., for his information, guidance and files. Copy of Bureau indorsement of November 18, 1922 was transmitted to you by Bureau indorsement of December 7, 1922 on your Form 84. Receipt is acknowledged of your Form 84 dated January 5, 1923 in this matter. Be guided accordingly.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

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1923 FEB 2 AM 8 53

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HLB: LP

Hydro,
Engr. Cons,
Mar Engr,
Personnel,
Accounts,
Contracts,
Chf Clk,
Dep. Comr,
Comr.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.
Jan. 31, 1923

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Keeper, - Charges against.

Reference: Bureau indorsement of Jan. 10, 1923, forwarding copy of Department letter of January 5, 1923.

Enclosures: 1. Copy of my letter of January 17, 1923 preferring charges against Urban.

2. Urban's reply of Jan. 18, 1923.

1. Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Keeper, Jupiter Inlet Light Station was suspended effective October 25, 1922. He is still under suspension.

2. In compliance with the instructions contained in the reference, I preferred general charges against Otto Urban in a letter dated January 17, 1923, a copy of which is enclosed. Urban's reply, dated January 18, 1923 is enclosed. This reply does not disprove the charge that he is temperamentally unfit for the position of 1st Asst. Keeper in the Lighthouse Service and an undesirable employee.

3. It is recommended that Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Keeper be dismissed from the Lighthouse Service, effective at the close of October 25, 1922. Section 2 of Civil Service Rule I relative to political on religious opinions or affiliations will not be violated by the action recommended.

Dept dismissed
mailed Sept 3/3/23
RG

H. L. BECK,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

RG Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D.C. February 20, 1923.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce, with recommendation that Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Keeper, Jupiter Inlet Light Station, be dismissed effective at the close of October 25, 1922.for the reasons stated by the superintendent in paragraph 2 above which are concurred in by the Bureau. Inclosed is copy of charges preferred against Urban by the superintendent and his reply thereto. Attention in this connection is invited to Dept. letter of January 5, 1923.

Commissioner of Lighthouses

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THG:LP

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Jan. 31, 1923

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S.C.

1. With reference to the charges preferred against Mr. Charles Seabrook, Keeper of Jupiter Inlet Light Station, by Mr. Otto Urban, 1st Asst. Keeper, under date of January 13, 1923 and Mr. Seabrook's answer thereto, under date of January 24, 1923:

2. At the time of my investigation, Sept. 13, 1922, relative to charges preferred by Mr. Seabrook against the wife of Mr. Urban, there was no disposition on the part of Mr. Urban to complain, in any manner whatsoever of Mr. Seabrook. Mr. Urban stated to me that he had no complaint to make against Mr. Seabrook, that he liked the station and desired to remain. Mr. Seabrook stated that he liked Mr. Urban, that he was a good assistant keeper and that he would be satisfied to have him remain.

3. I had nothing to do with the matter of the charges under consideration. The matter occurred subsequent to my investigation of Sept. 13, 1922. However, from information obtained at the time of that investigation, I am inclined to the opinion that no consideration should be given to any statement of Mr. Urban, his wife, or any of his references, against Mr. Seabrook. I found enough at the time of my investigation to convince me that Mr. Seabrook was straight forward in the matter and attending to his duty, but that Mrs. Urban was entirely in the wrong and that Mr. Urban was inclined to take her part, blindly, to any extent.

T. H. Gregg

T.H. GREGG,
1st Asst. Supt. of Lighthouses.

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1923 FEB 19 PM 4 03

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

1923 FEB 2 AM 8 57

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FEB 2 1923
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

HLB:LP

Jan. 31, 1923

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject:. Charles Seabrook, Keeper, Jupiter Inlet Light Station-
Report against.

Enclosures: 1. Letter from Otto Urban, dated January 18, 1923, making statements relative to Charles Seabrook, Keeper.
2. Letter of January 24, 1923 from Charles Seabrook, Keeper, answering Urban's statements.
3. Report, dated January 31, 1923 from 1st Assistant Superintendent T. H. Gregg to Superintendent of Lighthouses.

1. The statements made by Urban in his letter of January 18, 1923, are believed to be malicious and false. I have, therefore, not preferred charges against Keeper Seabrook and have made no investigation of the matter other than to obtain from Seabrook his written reply to the statements made and also to obtain from 1st Asst. Superintendent Gregg a report in regard to the matter.

2. It will be observed that Urban in his letter of January 18, 1923, makes a number of definite and damaging statements in regard to the character and actions of Keeper Charles Seabrook. He does not give the name of any person, who can substantiate his charges. 1st Asst. Superintendent Gregg, in his report to me dated January 31, 1923, states that Urban told him on Sept. 13, 1922 that he had no complaint to make against Mr. Seabrook. If Urban's statements in regard to occurrences prior to Sept. 13, 1922 when Mr. Gregg inspected the station are true, it is highly improbable that he would have told Mr. Gregg that he had no complaint to make against Mr. Seabrook.

3. It is recommended that no further action be taken relative to Urban's statements in his letter of January 18, 1923 in regard to Keeper Seabrook. It is, of course, intended to carry out the Department's instructions with regard to transferring Seabrook at a later date.

OK

APPROVED:

H. L. BECK,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

ACTING SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
FEB 13 1922

EK
Enclosure

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommending for approval.

Commissioner.

FEB - 3 1923
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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COPY- LJP

HLB:EAW

January 17, 1923.

Mr. Otto Urban,
No. 626 Fern St.,
West Palm Beach, Fla.

1923 FEB 2 AM 8 53

Reference: Suspension from duty October 25, 1922.

1. Referring to your suspension from duty as first assistant keeper of Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla., you are hereby charged with being temperamentally unfit for the position of first assistant keeper in the Lighthouse Service and an undesirable employee.

2. You will be allowed a reasonable time, three days, from receipt of this letter for personally answering the above charges in writing.

H.L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Forwarded by registered mail.

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C O P Y - LJP

Jan. 18, 1923
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S.C.

Sir:-

Your letter of Jan. 17th received in which you state that I am charged with being temperamentally unfit for the position of 1st Asst. Keeper in the Lighthouse Service.

In answer I wish to say that I have done nothing wrong, but held my temper and obeyed Lighthouse Rules under very trying circumstances and did not raise any disturbance on the station when my wife and I were accused falsely. Most men I believe would have exercised violence, but such action on my part would have only made matters worse and would have been contrary to regulations as I know them.

The charge for which I was suspended was false as has been proven in Court. I was the victim of a frame up and conspiracy. I have obeyed the Lighthouse rules and the Keepers orders and tried to do my work properly and to the interest of the service. If there is anything that I have done wrong I do not know it and all I want is a fair chance.

Respectfully yours,

Otto.Urban.

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C O P Y - LJP

Jan. 18th, 1923
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S.C.

Sir:-

I understand that I now may prefer charges against Charles Seabrook, Keeper of Jupiter Light Station. I charge Charles Seabrook with conspiring with Bertha Seabrook, Ernest Begore, Jess Begore, W.P. Well, Carl Etter and others to have myself and wife removed from the Jupiter Light Station and to ruin the reputation of my wife and I, and defame her character and malicious persecution against myself. I chage Charles Seabrook with assault upon my wife, cruel treatment, vulgar language and misconduct unbecoming the Lighthouse Service. While on the Station my wife was mistreated and threatened by E.P. Wells and Carl Etter, June 3rd, 1922 on the Light Station without interference of the Keeper. My wife was assaulted by Charles Seabrook when he was intoxicated on July 30, 1922 on the Light Station. She was assaulted by Ernest Begore on Aug. 22nd, 1922 and insulted by Charles Seabrook Sept. 6th, 1922 and he made false and vulgar accusations against her Sept. 13th, 1922.

I charge Charles Seabrook with using Government paint for painting boats for compensation which he had done on many occasions since he has been at the Light Station. He has been guilty of sleeping while on duty in the tower.

Respectfully submitted.

(Sgd) OTTO URBAN

LIGHTHOUSE
CHARLESTON, S. C.
JAN 22 23
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Vouchers
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

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Jan, 18th. 1923
West Palm Beach
Fla

2

Superintendent of Light Houses
Charleston, S. C.

Sir

I understand that I now may prefer Charges against Charles Seabrook Keeper of Jupiter Light Station.

I Charge Charles Seabrook with Conspiracy with Bertha Seabrook, Ernest Begore, Jess Begore, E.P. Wells, Carl Etter and others to have myself and wife removed from the Jupiter Light Station and to ruin the Reputation of my Wife and I, and defame her Caracter and malicious persecution against myself I Charge Charles Seabrook with assault upon my wife, cruel treatment vulgar language and misconduct unbecoming the Light House Service while on the Station My wife was mistreated and threatened by E.P. Wells and Carl Etter, June 3rd 1922 on the Light Station without interference of the Keeper.

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My Wife was assaulted by Charles Seabrook when he was intoxicated on July 30, 1922 on the Light Station. She was assaulted by Ernest Beyere on Aug 22nd 1922 and insulted by Charles Seabrook Sept 6th 1922, and he made false and vulgar accusations against her Sept 13th 1922

I Charge Charles Seabrook with using Government Paint for painting Boats for remuneration which he has done

on many occasions since he has been at the Light Station. He has been guilty of sleeping while on duty in the tower.

Respectfully submitted

Otto Urban

Reproduced at the National Archives- STL

C O P Y - LJP

Jupiter Inlet Light Station, Fla.
Jan. 24, 1923

Supt. of Lighthouses,
6th District,
Charleston, S.C.

Sir:-

I herein respectfully reply to the charges made against me by 1st Asst. Keeper Otto Urban, under date of Jan. 13th, 1923.

1. The conspiracy with Bertha Seabrook, Ernest Begore, Jesse Begore, W.P. Wells, Carl Etta and others to have him and wife removed from the station and to ruin her reputation and his, is hereby denied and is absolutely false. 1st Asst. Supt. T.H. Gregg of your office can verify my statement when I say I requested him to let Mr. Urban remain after his investigation on Sept. 13, 1922.

2. The charge of defaming her character and malicious persecution against him is hereby denied. Actions taken by me in regards him were in accordance with instructions issued by your office under date of Oct. 25, 1922. The charges against Mrs. Urban were made through me, as Keeper to a superior officer and was purely administrative to the service. If the charges preferred against her to 1st Asst. Supt. Gregg were not found sufficient your office would not have taken action on his report.

3. I am charged with - Assault upon his wife, cruel treatment and vulgar language and misconduct unbecoming the Lighthouse Service. These charges are denied as being perfectly untrue. I feel any further denial or proof is unnecessary. However, I would refer you to 2nd Asst. C.W. King or Rev. H.H. Jones of Jupiter, who could inform you as to my treatment of Mrs. Urban when they were on the station.

4. His statement that his wife on June 3rd was mistreated and threatened by E.P. Wells and Carl Etta without interference of the keeper. This is the 1st time I have ever heard of such, so certainly could not be expected to interfere in a thing which I knew nothing of. On the contrary I am persuaded to the best of my memory that at that time his wife was very friendly with the 2 gentlemen named so therefore doubt the statement.

5. Mr. Urban charges that the Keeper Seabrook assaulted his wife on July 30, 1922 when intixicated. This charge is absolutely false. If true why did he not resist such misconduct as a husband ? Why should he wait until now to make the complaint ? Asst. Supt. Gregg inspected this station on Sept. 13th and held an investigation of her misconduct. Why did he not then bring the matter to his attention if the same was true ?

6. His wife being assaulted by E.S. Begore on Aug. 22nd is indeed new to me. I have not heard anything of it before if it is true, it is remarkable how much trouble she had before Mr. Gregg held his investigation on Sept. 13, and yet she did not tell Mr. Gregg anything about it. Candidly I do not believe a word of it.

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7. He says she was insulted by me on Sept. the 6th, 1922 and yet does not tell Mr. Gregg about it on Sept. 13th. I cannot but deny the statement.

8. Made false and vulgar statements or accusations against her on Sept. 13th Any statement made was to Mr. Gregg. He has them in writing if any.

9. The charge of using government paint for painting boats for compensation I have painted 3 small boats since I have been on this station and all of the paint has been furnished by the owners who were Norma Carline (deceased). Mrs. Henry Jackson and Capt. Smythe of Jupiter. 2 quart cans of 1 each of town and country paint which is a brand not furnished by the service was left over from one of these boats and was exchanged with Bowers Brothers Co. for 1 qt. of copper paint which I used on the station boat #16. No doubt Mr. E.F. Bowers can remember the transaction.

10. The charge of sleeping on duty is denied and it would be well to have Mr. Urban prove the charge along with the other false charges made.

Respectfully,

(Sgd) Charles Seabrook,

Keeper

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LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S.C.
JAN 26 23
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Prepaidst

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1923 FEB 2 AM 8 53

SIXTH DISTRICT

(Depot, Vessel, or Station) Depot

Jan 24th, 1923

Supt of Lighthouses
6th Dist
Charleston S.C.

Sir

I here in respectfully reply to the Charges made against me by 1st asst Otto Urban under date of Jan 13th 1923

1 – The Conspericy with Bertha Seabrook, Ernest Begore, Jessie Begore, C.F. Wells, Carl Etta & others to have him & wife removed from the Station, and to ruin his reputation, is hereby denied, and is absolutely false. 1st asst Supt J.H. Gregg of your office can verify my statement when I say I requested him to let Mr. Urban remain after his investigation on Sept 13th 1922

2 – The Charge of deforming her character, and malicious prosecution against him is hereby denied Actions taken by me in regards him were in accordance with instructions issued by your office underdate of Oct. 25th 1922 The charges against Mrs Urban were made through me, as Keeper to a Superior Officer and were purely administration to the Service if the Charges preferred against her to 1st Asst Supt Gregg were not found Sufficient

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

2

SIXTH DISTRICT

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

, 191

Your office would not have taken action on his report.

3. I am charged with - Assault a ~~[illegible]~~ upon his wife Cruel treatment vulgar language, & misconduct unbecoming the lighthouse service. These charges are denied, as being perfectly untrue, I feel any further denial or proff. is unnecessary. However I would refer you to 2nd asst C.W. King or Rev. H.H. Jones of Jupiter who could ~~inform~~ you as to my treatment of Mrs Urbon while they were on the station.

4. His statement that his wife on June 3rd was mistreated and threatened by E P Wells & Carl Ellis with out interfairence of the Keeper. This is the 1st time I have ever heard of such, so certainly could not be expected to interfair in a thing which I knew nothing of. On the Country I am persuaded to the best of my memory that at that time his wife, was ~~the best of~~ very friendly with the 2 gentlemen named so therefore doubt the statement.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SIXTH DISTRICT

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

---, 19

5th Mr. Urbon Charges that the Keeper Seabrook assaulted his wife on July 30th 1922 when intoxicated This Charge is absalutely false. If true why did he not resent such misconduct as a Husband: why should he wait until now to make the Complaint Asst Supt. Gregg Inspected this Stations on Sept 13th and held an investigation of her misconduct why did he not then bring the matter to his attention if the same was true?

6 His wife being assaulted by E.S. Rogers on aug 22d is indeed new to me I have not heard anything of it before if it is true it is remarkable how much trouble she had before Mr. Gregg held his investigation on Sept. 13. and yet she did not tell Mr. Gregg anything about it. Candidly I do not believe a word of it.

7. He says she was insulted by me on Sept the 6th 1922 and yet does not tell Mr. Gregg about it on Sept 13th I cannot but deny the statement.

8. Made false vulger statements or accusations against her on Sept. 13th Any statement made was to Mr. Gregg. he has them in writing if any.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

4

SIXTH DISTRICT

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

, 19

9th. The Charge of using government paint for painting boats for compensation. I have painted 3 small boats since I have been on this Station and all of the paint has been furnished by the owners. who were. Nonna Carlin (deceased) Mrs. Henry Jackson, and Capt Smythe of Jupiter 2 quarts cons of 1 each of Town & Country paint which is a brand not furnished by this Service was left-over from one of the boats and was exchanged with Bowers Brothers for. 1 gal of copper paint which I used on the station boat £16 No doubt Mr. E. J. Bowers Can remember the transaction

7th. The Charge of sleeping on duty is denied and it would be well to have Mr. Urban prove the Charge along with the other false Charges made

Respectfully

Charles Seabrook

Keeper.

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CJL-EK

February 19, 1923.

Memo re charges against Otto Urban.

Have gone over this matter very thoroughly, but while Dept. authorized general charges and apparently the Supt. endeavored to follow these instructions believe that the charges could have been worded a little different, and in more general terms to a better effect. However, it would appear best to submit this to the Dept. "as is" for if an attempt were made to bring further charges against Urban, he and his friends might consider that the Service had a weak case against him and that he was being persecuted, etc. Mr. Hastings concurs in this view. Recommend forward to Dept. recommending dismissal. Dept. stated in its letter of January 5 that "it is of the opinion that apart from the action of the court, there is no question of the undesirability of retaining Otto Urban in the Service".

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March 2, 1923.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

For the reasons stated in the Sixth Superintendent's communication of January 31, 1923, the Department has approved the Bureau's recommendation of February 13, 1923, that no further action be taken relative to the statements in the letter dated January 18, addressed to the Superintendent by Oscar Urban in regard to Charles Seabrook, Keeper of Jupiter Inlet Light Station, other than the transferring of Seabrook at a later date.

By direction of the Secretary:

Chief of Appointment Division.

P
G