

**Intoxicating Liquors — Counties — Claims — Detectives —  
County Attorney.**

Detectives employed by the county attorney need not specify separate items making up each day's expenses in claims for room and lodging where the total amount is within the amount per day allowed by contract.

Vouchers and receipts need not be attached to such claims.

Rudolph Nelstead, Esq.,  
County Attorney,  
Miles City, Montana.

December 20, 1924.

My dear Mr. Nelstead:

Your letter was received in which you state that you as county attorney employed certain persons for the purpose of detecting violations of the intoxicating liquor laws of the state of Montana within your county: that the compensation of said persons was agreed to be a certain sum per day, and that their expenses for board and lodging would be paid not to exceed a certain sum per day: that said persons have filed their claims for services and said expenses, listing said expenses as board and lodging for each day in the sum agreed upon therefor.

You inquire whether it is necessary that these claimants show upon their claims the specific expenditures going to make up the sum claimed for each day's expenses and if it is also necessary for them to attach receipts therefor.

If these persons are required to get a receipt for their lodging and meals in many cases their efficiency will be greatly impaired, if not destroyed, because of the fact, in so doing, it at once becomes apparent that they are employees of someone from whom they expect to be reimbursed for their expenses and in many instances these persons find it to advantage to represent themselves as being in the employ of no one: their business must be, of necessity, a secret one, and suspicion is as detrimental to it as knowledge that they are engaged in it.

The statutes do not require vouchers to be attached to claims of this sort when presented to the board for approval. The only require-

ment is that they shall be itemized and verified by the claimant. It is, therefore, my opinion that when a claim is presented showing the amount of expense for each day for lodging and meals, and which does not exceed the amount stipulated in the contract of employment and which amount must itself be reasonable, this is a sufficient itemization of the claim and when sworn to by claimant is a sufficient verification to give the board jurisdiction to allow the claim.

Very truly yours,

L. A. FOOT,  
Attorney General.