
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 19, 1892.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

FEBRUARY 11, 1893.—Ordered to be reprinted. Referred to Committee on Indian Affairs (to accompany an amendment to H. R. 10415).

Mr. STEWART presented the following

LETTER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TRANSMITTING A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, TOGETHER WITH A DRAFT OF A BILL TO RATIFY AND CONFIRM AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INDIANS ON THE PYRAMID LAKE RESERVATION AND THE WALKER RIVER RESERVATION, IN THE STATE OF NEVADA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, July 19, 1892.

SIR: Referring to your letter of May 30, inclosing Senate bill No. 1794, Fifty second Congress, first session, to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Pah-Ute tribe of Indians on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, in Nevada, and the amendment thereto proposed by Senator Stewart and asking the views of the Department as to the provisions contained in the amendment referred to, I have the honor to inclose a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with a draft of a substitute for the bill and amendment in which I concur and respectfully recommend the passage of the same.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

Hon. H. L. DAWES,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, July 9, 1892.

SIR: I am in receipt, by Department reference for report, of a communication dated May 30, 1892, from Senator H. L. Dawes, inclosing therewith Senate bill No. 1794, Fifty-second Congress, first session, to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Pah-Ute tribe or band of Indians on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation in Nevada, and for other purposes, and the amendment thereto intended to be proposed by Senator Stewart.

Senator Dawes states that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs desires the views of this Department as to the provisions contained in the amendment referred to.

Upon this subject I have the honor to state that Senator Stewart recently advised this office informally that he thought it best to abandon the legislation proposed in the said amendment to authorize the appointment of three commissioners for the purpose of entering into negotiations and agreement with the Pah-Ute Indians residing upon Pyramid Lake and Walker River Reservations, for the purpose of procuring the relinquishment of the Indian title to the entire Walker River Reservation and to such lands of the Pyramid Lake Reservation as lie to the west and north of Pyramid Lake, and to declare instead thereof, by Congressional action, the lands embraced within said Walker River Reservation and such of the Pyramid Lake Reservation as above described vacated and restored to the public domain, paying therefor, however, not to exceed a certain rate per acre and obtaining the acceptance of and consent to the same in proper manner by the Indians.

The Senator suggested that the said Senate bill to ratify and confirm the agreement concluded with the Indians of the Pyramid Lake Reservation, October 17, 1891, be so amended, and that the other provisions contained in his amendment as proposed, be also added thereto.

Upon careful careful examination of the said bill and the proposed amendments, which are really of more importance than the bill itself, it is found that it would be necessary to modify and change each article of the agreement, and to add thereto a number of sections, and that to adopt such course would not only involve much labor, but perhaps lead to confusion and doubt in construing the provisions of the same should it become a law.

Having given the matter very careful consideration, and after several interviews with Senator Stewart, of Nevada, who is thoroughly familiar with the subject, I have deemed it best to submit, in lieu of the said Senate bill and the amendment proposed, the inclosed draft of a bill with the recommendation that he same, if it meets with your approval, be transmitted to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, with request that it be made a substitute for said Senate bill returned, and that copy of this report accompany the same, herewith inclosed for that purpose.

The amendment referred to is herewith returned.

Senate bill No. 3220, for the relief of the heirs of Lloyd R. Welch, deceased, accompanying Senator Dawes's said letter, will form the subject of another report at an early date, with which that letter and the other inclosures thereof will be returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN.
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.