
AGREEMENT WITH THE WICHITA INDIANS, ETC.

JULY 26, 1894.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MADDOX, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7810.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs have had under consideration a bill to ratify an agreement entered into between certain commissioners appointed on the part of the United States and the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, whereby said Indians agree to cede a certain portion of their reservation in what is known as the "leased district."

They also have under consideration a bill to ratify an agreement entered into by certain commissioners acting on the part of the United States with the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians, whereby said Indians agree to cede a certain part of their reservation in what is known as the "leased district."

The said lands agreed to be ceded by the aforesaid tribes of Indians are located between the ninety-eighth and one hundredth degree of West longitude, in Oklahoma Territory, and are located within the territory leased from the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes in the year 1855, and ceded in 1866.

It being made to appear that said Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes claim that they only ceded said land in trust for the purpose of local friendly Indians thereon, and that when said land is opened for settlement to other than friendly Indians, that the title in said lands reverts to them, and that they are entitled to pay for the same; in order to determine the question of title, legal or equitable, as claimed by the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes to the aforesaid land, your committee, after mature deliberation, deem it to the best interest of the United States that the interest of the aforesaid Indians, either legal or equitable, should be finally settled and determined by the courts before said agreements are ratified, and to that end they offer the accompanying bill authorizing the Attorney-General of the United States to bring suit in the supreme court of the District of Columbia, with the right of appeal to the court of appeals of the District of Columbia, for the purpose of determining the right, title, and interest, either legal or equitable, of the aforesaid tribes of Indians in the lands above mentioned.

He is also authorized to make all of said tribes, or any others that may have any interest or claim to said land, parties defendant to said suit; and he is further authorized to have copies of the original proceedings served upon said tribes through their proper agents or representatives, sixty days before the hearing thereof, according to the usual

methods of procedure in said court, and said tribes are allowed to file their pleas and answer to said suit, and to defend the same in as full and complete a manner according to the rules and methods now allowed party litigants, and the court is required to hear and determine all the issues arising in said suit, and decide fully the right, title, or interest, either legal or equitable, that the aforesaid tribes have in said lands, if any, according to the interpretation of Indian treaties by the Supreme Court of the United States, and shall specify the character and amount of said interest, if any, and the courts are required to give precedence to this case, and to hear and determine all the points at issue as early as practicable, and that the court shall have full power to assess the cost in the case against the United States.

○