

## MESSAGE

FROM THE

# PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

*A communication from the Secretary of the Interior relative to proposed legislation for the relief of the Omaha Indians.*

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MARCH 10, 1886.—Read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I transmit herewith a communication of the 5th instant from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting, with accompanying papers, a draft of a bill prepared in the Office of Indian Affairs, "for the relief of the Omaha tribe of Indians in the State of Nebraska."

The matter is presented for the consideration of Congress.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, March 10, 1886.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, March 5, 1886.

The PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to submit herewith copy of a communication of 4th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with accompanying petition signed by 210 members (heads of families) of the Omaha tribe of Indians, presented through United States Indian Agent Potter of the Omaha and Winnebago Agency, in the State of Nebraska, setting forth the fact that they have taken lands in severalty and received patents therefor, and that, being desirous of making further improvements on their farms and needing money for that purpose, they pray that the remaining money due and to become due them under the fourth article of their treaty of March 16, 1854 (10 Stats., 1044), being nine installments of \$10,000 each, aggregating, \$90,000 may be distributed among the members of the tribe within the present year in one per capita payment.

The Commissioner reports that the Omaha Indians are a steady, sober, and industrious people; that allotments were made to them under the provisions of the act of August 7, 1882, to the amount of 75,931 acres; that in order to enable these allottees to improve their farms, build houses and barns, purchase stock, agricultural implements, and

other necessaries, he is of the opinion that it would be greatly to their advantage if substantial aid by the payment of a part of their unappropriated annuity, per capita, be granted to them at this stage of their progress. To this end he recommends that Congress be requested to appropriate the sum which will become due under their treaty, \$90,000 as above noted, with the proviso that the same be paid per capita in two annual payments of \$45,000 each; or that the last half be paid in annual installments of \$9,000 each, in the discretion of this Department; and he presents a draft of a bill embodying his recommendations, which he desires may be presented for the action of Congress.

The recommendation of the Commissioner has my concurrence.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 H. L. MULDROW,  
*Acting Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
 Washington, March 4, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a communication from Charles H. Potter, United States Indian agent for the Omaha tribe of Indians in Nebraska, dated February 22, 1886, inclosing a petition signed by 210 heads of families, members of the Omaha tribe of Indians, in which they set forth the fact that they have taken lands in severalty, and received patents for the same, and that, with a view to make further improvements upon their homesteads, and to fully prepare themselves for progress and increased prosperity, they desire a full settlement with the United States by the payment to the tribe, per capita, the sum of \$90,000, being nine of the last installments of annuity at \$10,000 per annum unappropriated, and secured to them by the fourth article of the treaty between the United States and the Omahas, dated March 16, 1854 (10 Stats., p. 1043).

In submitting this petition for the action of the Department, I will state that the Omahas are a steady, sober, and industrious people, and that under the provisions of the act of Congress approved August 7, 1882 (22 Stats., p. 342), 75,931 acres of land were divided in 954 separate allotments to 1,194 persons. This number includes the wives, they receiving their lands with their respective husbands.

In order to enable these allottees to improve their farms, build houses and barns, purchase horses and stock, agricultural implements, and other necessaries, I am of the opinion it would be greatly to their advantage if substantial aid, by the payment of a part of their unappropriated annuity, per capita, be granted to them at this stage of their progress.

With this end in view, I respectfully recommend that Congress be requested to appropriate the sum due, \$90,000, with the proviso that the same be paid per capita in two annual payments of \$45,000 each, or that the last one-half be paid in annual installments of \$9,000 each, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

I inclose a draft of a bill, embodying the recommendations above named, for the action of Congress.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL for the relief of the Omaha tribe of Indians in the State of Nebraska.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in view of the advanced condition in civilization of the Omaha tribe of Indians in the State of Nebraska, and to enable said tribe to further improve their condition by making improvements upon their homesteads, by the purchase of stock, cattle, agricultural implements, and other necessary articles, and in accordance with their wishes, there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$90,000, being the last nine installments of \$10,000 each unappropriated, and secured to said Indians under the fourth article of their treaty dated March 16, 1854: *Provided,* That said sum shall be paid per capita in two annual payments of \$45,000 each, or that the last one-half be paid in annual installments of \$9,000 each, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Omaha and Winnebago Agency, Nebraska, February 22, 1886.

The Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith a paper purporting to be a petition from heads of families of the Omaha tribe of Indians, numerously signed, which explains itself. The paper was handed to me by John Springer, captain of Omaha Indian police, with a request from the Omahas that I forward it to you.

Very respectfully,

CHS. H. POTTER,  
United States Indian Agent.

The Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS:

SIR: We, the undersigned heads of families, members of the Omaha tribe of Indians, having received patents to our lands, and being desirous of making further improvements on our farms, and needing money for that purpose, do hereby petition that the money due us under the fourth article of the treaty of March 16, 1854, amounting to nine installments of \$10,000 each, making in all \$90,000, be paid to us within the present year in one payment, said payment to be divided pro rata among the tribe.

Signed (by his X mark) as follows:

Kahamonne, Lindahaha, Wahommiga, Du-bamonne, Chazaninga, Shuzhmga, Maagahe, Ahazhinga, Henry Fontenelle, Joseph La Flesche, John Springer, George Martin, Warotata, Sioux Solomon, Ulysses Grant, Daniel Webster, Geonzaninga, Cyrus Phillips, Kahageah, Tabazhinga, Ledemone, Gradnazhe, George Miller, Dwight Sherman, Khethagahega, Hagamonnie, Yellow Smoke, Numbamonne, Wazheumba, Umpaska, Thahaba, Ne Ogashuda, Wauetawa, Harry Lyon, Okedagahe, Tawapazhe, Pasidonba, Umpatonga, Ekhebazhe, Shongaska, Mahawara, William Tyndall, Washiska, Philip Stabler, Paninumpaghe, Shugagahega, Mawadane, Frederick Merrick, Khe-thate, Thomas McCauley, Nahgou, Kabaha, Obane, Neahshega, Wajapa, Lethadazhinga, Numbaduba, Geahhabe, Skaskatua, Mazada, Ishtatahe, Naze, Gishta wagoo, Mehata, Pezeninga, John Pilcher, Henry Blackbird, Nebraska, Omahahe, Ishtashabe, Wannohaghingaa, Nungatheah, Gaimbazhe, James Hamilton, Hondonmonne, Monahkaza, Taenoozanumba, Numbamonne, Walawain, Neakebana, Neatagegtha, Tathazapa, Toahkiha, Lindamuha, Tanuga, Onemone, Wabagthazhe, Tawagaha, Hungate, O. Kepata, Jim Dick, Charles Dick, Wabahezhinga, Talunda, Gakegawaninga, Tomiga-zhinga, Daniel Hewett, Wasoapa, Taakaha, Hathekooweha, Wazhekeda, Wauhtawara, Nungazhe, Ishtadouba, Wawaiha, Liminhase, Monguta, Monagata, Takhaounghr, Redaega, Gradahodo, Khetthapahe, Wakedaztiugee, Shawade, Ardent Lonsoci, Louis Lonsoci, Eshongoka, Ishtamuzzhe, Tagaha, Ehenogena, Jacob Hallowell, O. Shondamonne, Mashiamonne, Tom Baxter, Makpeahoga, Lintua, Nundawahe, Nonga, Hezezhinga Keokuk, Shedata, Wadonkuska, Hadabana, Bunte, Hazeninka, Lehonda, Padaga, Azirgaha, Honahkepa, Charles Pilcher, Watanazhe, Hahuda, Hag-thaza, Waah, Maahzniga, Wakonha, Muzada, Nushuska, Mupawah, Chongershamonne, Wakraronta, Obamonne, Wams, Wazhetheshaga, Modoc, Kahunga, Hashemonne, Pasa, Mongaahzhe, Ogatira, Gazeha, Ishagawahera, Wakemmonne, Wazheska, Hatata, Tamonne, Tahommonne, Ahronhagamonne, Podaro, Haskanoga, Onedaba, Rosalie Farley, Lusette Tibbles, Louisneal, Fred Kryone, Elizabeth Baylis, Wapasha, Omahatawagra, Oshkabetaga, Oshkamonnie, Stephen Guitar, Oshkadaghe, Tatezhuga, Oneba-

teba, Wabashka, Shabanuzhe, Shagazinga, Frank Lonsoci, Nungutua, Stondogna, Panigahega, Kathehe, Mika, Tamonne, Gashkhwingra, Wauinagha, Egachega, Monhanuzzle, Wabaskaha, Zezekazinga, Mungazheda, Kawaha, Thethegazhe, Leha, Tahteduba, Ohashe, Ojeme, Asnogethabe, Pazunnuga, Washebenae.

This is to certify that I, John T. Copley, was present at a meeting of the council and members of the Omaha Indians and witnessed the signatures of the above names this day.

OMAHA AGENCY, NEBR., *February 19, 1886.*

JOHN T. COPLEY.

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