

OMAHA INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Estimates for an appropriation to defray the expenses of a party of Omaha Indians.

FEBRUARY 20, 1852.

Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 18, 1852.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, of the 17th instant, covering estimates from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for an appropriation of \$2,500 to defray the expenses of a party of Omaha Indians, now in this city.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. CORWIN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

HON. LINN BOYD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 17, 1852.

SIR: In order that it may be by you laid before Congress, I herewith enclose you a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 16th instant, recommending that an Appropriation of \$2,500 be made to defray the expenses, while here and in returning home, of a party of Omaha Indians now in this city.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. H. H. STUART,
Secretary of the Interior.

HON. THOMAS CORWIN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, Feb. 16, 1852.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a letter, with accompanying "abstract of expenses," addressed to this office by Messrs. F. J. Wheeling and J. E. Johnson, conductors of a party of Omaha Indians, now in this city, and of a letter from Mr. Bernhart Henn, and several other members of Congress, calling attention to the situation of these Indians, and the gentlemen having them in charge.

Having carefully considered the subject, I am of opinion that the necessary expenses of these Indians while in Washington, and of their return to their homes, should be paid by the government. It is believed that \$2,500 will be sufficient for this purpose, and I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to appropriate that amount.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
L. LEA, *Commissioner*.

Hon. A. H. H. STUART,
Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, February 10, 1852.

SIR: The undersigned would respectfully call your attention to the situation of the band of Omaha Indians now in this city, and to the gentlemen accompanying them, Messrs. Wheeling and Johnson; and would request that some immediate action may be taken, by your department, for the payment of their expenses, and for a just compensation to Messrs. Wheeling and Johnson for their time and trouble, in conducting the Indians to and from this city.

We are, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servants,
BERNHART HENN,
A. C. DODGE,
GEO. W. JONES,
SAM HOUSTON,
CHARLES DURKEE,
LINCOLN CLARK.

Hon. LUKE LEA,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WASHINGTON CITY,
February 9, 1852.

SIR: Permit us, as the conductors and agents of the deputation of the Omaha Indians, who, a few days since, had the pleasure of an interview with yourself, and also with the Chief Magistrate of the nation, to represent, that, becoming convinced of the justness of many of the complaints of this nation, and perceiving the growing difficulties between the white and red neighbors, and for the peace and safety of both, we were induced to undertake the transportation of this deputation to this place, and furnish them necessary clothing, &c.

By reason of protracted sickness, at various times, of the whole company, and other pecuniary difficulties, five months have been consumed since we took them from their country; and, should we now return, over six months' time will have been occupied in the trip; and, necessarily, a very heavy expense has been and must be incurred.

In justice to ourselves and the Indians, we ask that this account may be settled, that we may immediately have means to return.

The Indians are much inclined here to sickness, and a very heavy expense is daily incurred. Will you please give it your immediate attention? Enclosed please find bill of items.

Yours &c.,

F. J. WHEELING,
J. E. JOHNSON.

Honorable Mr. LEE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Abstract of expenses of the Omaha Indian delegation, now in Washington, conducted, and in part paid, by F. J. Wheeling and J. E. Johnson. (Company consisting of nineteen.)

Expense of transportation from Council Bluffs to Washington--	\$775 80
Four months' victualling, on the way-----	2,355 75
Blankets, clothing, and various necessary articles-----	351 65
Medicine, medical attendance, &c.-----	251 50
One month's board at Washington-----	1,200 00
Paid interpreter for time and service-----	400 00
Six months' service of Wheeling and Johnson, \$600 each-----	1,200 00
Amount required to return home-----	1,425 00
	\$7,959 70