

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

6-18-1836

Indian hostilities to suppress – Estimate

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Doc. No. 291, 24th Cong., 1st Sess. (1836)

This House Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES TO SUPPRESS—ESTIMATE.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 733.]

JUNE 18, 1836.

Laid before the House by the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 27, 1836.

SIR: I have delayed, until this time, submitting an estimate of the appropriations necessary to be made for the suppression of Indian hostilities, in the hope that some information might be obtained which would render these estimates less conjectural than they must be under existing circumstances. But nothing has yet been received which will enable the Department to judge with much probability what will be the extent or the expense of the operations which may be required for the subjugation of the Creek and Seminole Indians. The campaign against the Creeks must be continued until they are subdued. Upon the suggestion of Governor Call, he has been authorized to undertake an expedition against the Seminole Indians during the present summer. If this expedition be successful, these Indians may be reduced to submission without much delay. From the nature, however, of the climate of the country and of the warfare, it would be obviously imprudent to make such a calculation upon the successful issue of this expedition, as to leave the Government without the means of preparing for, and resuming, operations as soon as the season will permit, should the expedition fail. I have, therefore, looked to this state of things in submitting these estimates, and I enclose, herewith, a copy of a letter to Governor Call, by which the committee will ascertain the measures which are contemplated, and the instructions that have been given.

In addition to these difficulties, it has been considered advisable to call into service a brigade of the East Tennessee volunteers, for the purpose of stationing them in the Cherokee country, to prevent or suppress any hostilities that may be meditated or attempted by the Cherokee Indians.

I have stated that the estimates must, from necessity, be very conjectural, but the grounds upon which they have been formed will be found in the accompanying letters from the heads of the respective military bureaux. The expense of the East Tennessee brigade was not taken into view in their calculations, that measure having been determined upon subsequent to the date of these letters. I have not asked for any additional sum on this account, because I am in hopes the services of the troops will not be long required among the Cherokee Indians, and, because I am under the impression that before the whole appropriation asked for is drawn from the Treasury for the purposes specified, the next session of Congress may commence, and that the requisite appropriations, if any, can then be asked for with a full knowledge of all the necessary circumstances.

Of the sum of \$300,000, appropriated by the act authorizing the raising of volunteers, \$97,700 have been drawn from the Treasury. That appropriation is applicable as well to the equipment and payment of the new regiment of dragoons, as to the expenses of the volunteers, and I am of the opinion that the residue of the appropriation had better be left for the dragoons, and for such expenses connected with the volunteers, as may arise and are not now foreseen, and that the appropriation for the suppression of Indian hostilities may be made independent of this balance. Circumstances may require the quotas assigned to Arkansas and Missouri to be brought into service, and if so, there should be a fund on hand to meet their expenses.

It will be seen that the Paymaster General estimates for	-	\$1,168,000
The Quartermaster General	-	1,300,000
The Commissary General of Subsistence	-	248,000
The officer at the head of the Clothing Bureau	-	19,000
The Surgeon General	-	4,500
		<hr/>
		\$2,739,500

The appropriation for the suppression of the Creek hostilities is exhausted. Of that for the suppression of the Seminoles \$710,143 are unexpended. The Paymaster General thinks, that of this sum \$100,000 will be required to pay claims against his Department, already existing. And the Quartermaster General estimates that similar claims against his Department will amount to \$300,000. Therefore the sum of \$300,000 of the existing appropriation for the suppression of the Seminole hostilities would remain applicable to future operations, and is to be deducted from the amount of the above estimate, which will have the sum to be appropriated, about \$2,400,000.

I would suggest the propriety of making the balance of the Seminole appropriation, and likewise the appropriations now asked for, applicable to the suppression of any Indian hostilities. When operations are going on at the same time, and in the same district of country, against different Indian tribes, it is impracticable to keep the supplies so separate as to enable the accounting officers to determine, with precision, to which appropriation they should be charged. Steamboats, wagons, and other means of transportation, may be employed at the same time for both operations. And supplies may be purchased for one, and it may be found necessary to use them for the other. And, in addition, other Indian disturbances may possibly require expenses previously to the next session of Congress. I, therefore, take the liberty of enclosing in the form of an appropriation, in conformity with this suggestion, which, if approved by the committee, will render the appropriation applicable to the suppression of any Indian hostilities.

The committee will observe I have inserted the word "prevention" in addition to the word "suppression," used in the former acts. This change may be necessary to authorize the payment to the East Tennessee brigade, who will be employed among the Cherokees, where no hostilities have been actually commenced, but where prudence demanded, from the peculiar state of things existing there, that measures should be taken to prevent these Indians from commencing hostilities.

From the magnitude of the appropriation now asked for, and from the other circumstances attending this subject, I have been induced to submit

the whole matter to the consideration of the President of the United States, and I am instructed by him to say that he has examined and approved this letter.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. C. C. CAMBRELENG,
Chairman Com. Ways and Means, H. R.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 25, 1836.

SIR: I enclose for your information, copies and extracts of letters from Major Gen. Scott, in which he makes his suggestions respecting the preparations that will be necessary for conducting the campaign against the Seminole Indians, during the next autumn. As you have recommended an expedition against those Indians the present summer, and have received authority and means to undertake it, it would not be proper for the Department at this time to direct any preliminary arrangements, looking to operations hereafter. As, however, an expedition of this nature must be necessarily uncertain in its result, it is proper to refer the whole matter to you, the command in Florida being vested in you, to cause such preparations to be made for the subjugation of the Seminole Indians, as the circumstances of the country and the nature of the warfare may require. This subject is therefore committed to your discretion; and should you find that a renewal of operations will be necessary hereafter, you will then please to proceed to have all such arrangements made, as you may deem necessary to their speedy and successful issue. You will have before you the suggestions of Gen. Scott, and after considering them, you will determine for yourself what preparations may be required, and take your measures accordingly. The various staff officers will procure such supplies as you may require, and should articles be wanted, which cannot be furnished in Florida, arrangements must be made for procuring them where they can be got upon the best terms. In cases where the expenditures will be considerable, and where the supplies can probably be obtained upon better terms in the Atlantic cities, and transported to Florida in season for your operations, you had better correspond with the chiefs of the military bureaux at this place, and request them to have the articles procured and forwarded. If steamboats are purchased under the recent authority to employ them upon the gulf of Mexico, and upon the rivers running into it, they can be used in the operations against the Seminoles, as it is to be presumed the Creek difficulties will be over before autumn. If hired only, for the above purpose, the contract will be continued, or they must be purchased at your discretion. As to the establishment of posts, the collection of depots of provisions, the means of transportation, and the preparation of all other articles and supplies which may be requisite for these anticipated operations, you will make such arrangements as you may deem proper, the moment you become satisfied that the state of things will require these arrangements. The whole subject is committed to you. If the Indians are not subdued previously, a vigorous effort must be made to terminate these hostilities, as soon as the heats of

summer are over. And they must, under any circumstances, be put an end to.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida,
Tallahassee, Florida.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 14, 1836.

SIR: In my letter to you of the 10th instant, I had the honor to state that it would probably require an additional appropriation of \$650,000 for the pay of volunteers and militia employed in suppressing the hostilities of the Creek Indians. The calculations were based on the supposition that there would be eight thousand troops in the field, one half of which would be mounted; and that they would remain three months in service. The whole amount that would be required was \$850,000, of which I had, at that time, drawn \$200,000 from the appropriation on account of the Creek war.

Assuming that there may be four thousand volunteers and militia required, in addition to the regular troops in Florida, to suppress the Seminoles, one half to be mounted, and that they will be in service four months,

It will require for the pay of the mounted troops	-	\$341,696
And for the foot	-	176,304

Making	-	\$518,000
Which added to the	-	650,000

For the Creek war, makes	-	<u>\$1,168,000</u>
--------------------------	---	--------------------

This sum, it is supposed, will be sufficient to pay all volunteers and militia, now serving, or that may hereafter be called into service, to operate against those Indians.

Of the \$760,143 60, reported by the Comptroller to be in the Treasury, on the 10th instant, for the suppression of Seminole hostilities, as stated in my letter of that date, this Department will probably want \$100,000 to complete the payment of the troops that have served in Florida.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

N. TOWSON, P. M. G.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, Sec. of War.

OFFICE OF THE COM. GEN. OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, June 11, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to accompany this with estimates in duplicate of the probable amount required to subsist the militia and volunteers, during the present campaign in the Creek nation, and the approaching autumnal and winter campaigns in Florida.

From all the information collected, it is computed that the former will number 8,000 men, making for 93 days, 744,000 rations, which, at 20 cents, will amount to \$148,800, and the latter at 4,000 men, for 124 days, 496,000, at the same price, \$99,200, aggregating \$248,000.

The ration has been calculated at the above cost in consequence of its component parts, particularly that of the meat, being nearly, if not quite, twofold its value twelve months since, ascertained from the purchase of of stores recently shipped for the Creek campaign.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

GEO. GIBSON,

Com. Gen. Sub.

HON. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

Estimate of the probable amount required to subsist the militia and volunteers in the Creek nation and in Florida, during the present and anticipated campaigns :

Required for 8,000 men in the Creek nation 3 months, viz:	
From 15th of July to 15th of October, 1836,	\$148,800 00
Required for 4,000 men in Florida 4 months, viz:	
From 15th of October, 1836, to 15th of February, 1837,	99,200 00
	<u>\$248,000 00</u>

GEO. GIBSON, C. G. S.

Office Com. Gen. of Sub. June 11, 1836.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 14, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to state that, under the supposition that eight thousand men will be in the service for three months for the operations against the Creek Indians, and four thousand men for four months for the operations against the Seminole Indians, the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars for the former, and five hundred thousand dollars for the latter, will be required for the service of the Quartermaster's department, in addition to previous appropriations.

This estimate is entirely conjectural, for the operations of the department depend so much on circumstances which cannot be foreseen, the fluctuations in the prices of supplies and transportation, the value of services, and the difficulties to be encountered in moving troops and supplies in the field, the obstructions in the routes of communication and transportation, and the other innumerable contingencies incident to military opera-

tions, that no detailed estimate on any fixed basis of calculation other than I have stated can be made.

I am, sir, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THO. F. HUNT,

*Maj. and Ass't. Quartermaster, assigned to
Quartermaster General's duties.*

To the Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War, Washington.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
June 11, 1836.

SIR: Agreeably to your instructions, I have to report that about \$4,500 may be required for medical supplies, provided under an act for suppressing hostilities by the Creek Indians.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOS. LOVELL,

Surgeon General.

Honorable LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

CLOTHING BUREAU,
Washington, June 13, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the sum of nineteen thousand dollars will be required to complete the payment for various articles of camp equipage, ordered for the troops (militia and volunteers) employed in the suppression of Creek hostilities.

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. GARLAND,

Major U. S. Army.

Honorable LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.