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Letter from the Secretary of War, to the Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, in relation to providing camp equipage for the militia

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CAMP EQUIPAGE FOR MILITIA.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 338.]

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

To the Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, in relation to providing camp equipage for the militia.

FEBRUARY 13, 1836.

Printed by order of the House of Representatives.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
February 10, 1836.

SIR: Major General Scott, to whom the operations against the Seminole Indians have been committed, has applied for the necessary camp equipage for the use of the militia, who have been called into the service in Florida. It is found, on adverting to the subject, that there is no law authorizing this Department to issue these supplies to the militia, although such a measure is obviously necessary. The 3d section of the act of Congress of February 2, 1813, respecting the calling out of the militia, provided for these issues, but the section was limited to the period of the war then pending. It can hardly be expected that camp kettles and other articles of camp equipage can be provided by the troops themselves. I have, therefore, the honor to recommend, for the consideration of the military committee, the propriety of reviving and rendering permanent the provision of the above mentioned section.

Knapsacks also have been required for the use of the militia, but I do not find, on referring to the laws, that any authority to issue them has ever been vested in this Department. I, therefore, lay the subject before the committee, for such action as may appear proper to them.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,
LEW. CASS.

HON. R. M. JOHNSON,
Ch'n Com. on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives.