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Report : Petition of J. Johnston

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 21, 1840.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WALL made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petition of John Johnston, formerly Indian agent at Pequa, report:

That the petition sets forth that, at the July term, 1839, of the district court of Ohio, a judgment was rendered against him in favor of the United States, under an erroneous view of his case, for the sum of seven hundred and twenty-one dollars and forty-eight cents, as will more fully appear by the documents therewith presented; and, therefore, prays the passage of a law to relieve him from the operation of the said judgment, interest, and costs.

This is the whole substance of the petition, which is accompanied by several other papers.

If the petitioner does not see proper to exhibit his case in his petition, it would be not only contrary to parliamentary usage but of dangerous tendency for a committee to attempt to extract it from a mass of papers which he may see proper to send with it. The labors of this committee are sufficiently onerous to engage all their time, without assuming that of guessing the causes of complaint or relief of petitioners, who, for any cause whatever, omit to set them forth in their petitions.

The committee therefore report, that the petition is wholly defective in setting forth any cause of grievance or for relief, or any statement of facts to justify any legislation, and therefore ask to be discharged from its further consideration.

Blair & Rives, printers.