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Miami Indians.

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MIAMI INDIANS.

MARCH 27, 1846.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. BENTON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Shapendoshia and nine other Miami Indians, and of David Foster and one hundred other white men, praying said Indians may be allowed to remain and to receive their annuities in the State of Indiana, hereby report the same back to the House, with a recommendation that no action be taken thereon, for the reasons set forth in the accompanying letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which is to be considered as part of this report.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, February 14, 1846.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 10th instant, enclosing the memorial of certain Miamies, praying that they may be permitted to remain east after the main body have gone west, and receive their numerical proportion of the annuities, &c.

Similar applications have, on one or two previous occasions, been made to the department, which have been invariably refused, on the ground that the tribe are bound to go west, and we have bound ourselves to pay the annuities of the tribe west, except in cases specially provided for by treaty; that to grant their requests would be contrary to the established policy of the government to remove all the Indians beyond the reach of the States, and as imposing great labor and trouble in the division and payment of moneys to Indians widely scattered. And, in reflecting now upon this subject, I not only cannot see any good reason for changing these views, but much to strengthen my conviction that they are correct, and that the prayer of the petitioners should not be granted. Indeed, to accede to their wishes, instead of being a benefit to them, it would, I think, result to their injury, if not to their total destruction.

The memorial is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL.

Hon. C. W. CATHCART,
*Of the Committee of Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.*