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Israel Johnson.

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H.R. Rep. No. 505, 30th Cong., 1st Sess. (1848)

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Report No. 505.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 426.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ISRAEL JOHNSON.

APRIL 26, 1848.

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

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the petition of Israel Johnson, of Cass county, Indiana, report:

The said Johnson alleges that at the attempted treaty with the Miami tribe of Indians, in the year 1833, that he, at the request and under the direction of General William Marshall, Indian agent, and Nicholas D. Grover, sub-agent, hauled, from Logansport to the forks of the Wabash, three loads of baggage, for which he charges forty-five dollars per load, making \$135 00. That he also hauled, by the orders of the said agents, one load of baggage from the treaty ground, at the forks of the Wabash, to the payment ground for the Pottawatomies, on the Tippecanoe river, for which he was likewise to receive forty-five dollars.

That he also, by the direction of said agents, (being a hotel keeper at Logansport,) entertained and kept a large number of Indians, and their horses, for some time prior to said attempted treaty, for which he charges two hundred and twenty dollars.

That he also, while the said Indians were in council, by the direction of the said agents, gave a public dinner to the chiefs and head men of the said tribes, (Pottawatomies and Miamis,) for which he charges seventy-five dollars.

That he also was employed by the said agents to transport six boys of the Pottawatomie tribe, to Madison, on the way to the Choctaw academy, for which they agreed to pay him one hundred dollars.

The evidence before the committee leaves no room, whatever, to doubt the truth of the allegations set forth in the memorial. Among

the affiants, the sub-agent, Nicholas D. Grover, who was on the ground and cognizant of all the transactions, bears testimony to the rendition of these services, and the reasonableness of the compensation claimed.

When the accounts appertaining to this business were presented by the agent for settlement at the War Department, the accounts of Israel Johnson were omitted—and this omission is accounted for by the fact, that upon the failure of the treaty, the commissioners hurriedly made up their accounts, during the night following, and left the treaty ground early in the next morning—while at the same time said Johnson was absent from the treaty ground.

The committee further report that no part of the said claim has been paid by the United States. But that allowances, for precisely similar services, were made to others in the settlement of the accounts of this commission.

The objection to the payment of this account at the War Department is, that the account was not approved by the whole board of commissioners, being three in number; while the evidence before the committee shows that the agent for these Indians, General Marshall, from the fact of the other gentlemen on the commission being strangers to these Indians, and to the whites in their neighborhood, was the active and acting man, and that he made all the necessary arrangements.

Furthermore, it appears that it was through no fault of the said Johnson that his account was not laid before the board, but that it was the result of neglect on the part of General Marshall, the agent and commissioner, whose duty it was, in the absence of said Johnson, to have done so—as said Marshall had required the services and been furnished with the accounts.

The testimony before the committee being conclusive on these points, and also as to the reasonableness of the charges of said Johnson, they report a bill for his relief.