

12-24-1860

Abstraction of bonds held in trust for certain Indian Tribes. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, calling the attention of Congress to the abstraction of State bonds held in trust for certain Indian tribes.

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ABSTRACTION OF BONDS HELD IN TRUST FOR CERTAIN  
INDIAN TRIBES.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

CALLING

*The attention of Congress to the abstraction of State bonds held in trust  
for certain Indian tribes.*

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DECEMBER 24, 1860.—Laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*December 24, 1860.*

SIR: On Saturday night last I was informed by the voluntary confession of an officer of this department that State bonds, held in trust by the United States government for certain Indian tribes, to the amount of eight hundred and seventy thousand dollars, had been abstracted from its custody and converted to private use.

The enormity of this fraud demands a full investigation, by a committee of Congress, into all the facts and circumstances which have attended its perpetration. To vindicate my own honor and integrity, and to expose the guilty and derelict, I desire to appeal through you to the House of Representatives, over which you preside, for the appointment of a committee by that body, with full power to send for persons and papers, and to report upon the subject.

I ask this investigation in order that full justice may be done in the premises.

I am, with much respect, your obedient servant,  
J. THOMPSON,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

Hon. WILLIAM PENNINGTON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*