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Support of Utah and other Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, asking for an appropriation for the support of the Utah and other Indians

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SUPPORT OF UTAH AND OTHER INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ASKING

For an appropriation for the support of the Utah and other Indians.

JANUARY 14, 1863.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 13, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of letters of Amos Reed, esq., clerk of the Indian superintendency, Utah Territory, and of the Hon. Wm. P. Dole, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by which it will be seen that this department is requested to ask an appropriation from Congress of \$20,000 for the support of the Utah Indians during the present winter. The request is urgent, and from the examination I have made, I am induced to believe that an immediate appropriation should be made of \$50,000, to be placed at the disposal of this department, to be in part applied to the use of the Indians in Utah, and other Indians with whom we have no treaties.

This recommendation is based upon the fact that many of the Indians referred to are becoming restive and insubordinate, believing that the government has lost its power and ability to protect them on the one hand, and keep them in subjection on the other. It is important that we have some means at the disposal of this department to enable it to send special agents among the Indians, with presents and supplies by them most needed, in order to maintain their good will.

It may be that the whole of this sum will not be required; I trust it may not; but a portion of it is absolutely necessary, in my judgment, to be used for the purposes indicated. Two additional special agents are needed; one for the Chippewas of the north, and one for the Upper Missouri Indians. The employment of these agents will be but temporary; and, if allowed, it is hoped that they will be successful in allaying the ill will and general disposition to violence now existing among the Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER, *Secretary.*

Hon. G. A. GROW,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, January 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith copy of letter from Amos Reed, clerk to superintendent of Indian affairs for Utah Territory, submitting statement in reference to the necessity of an additional appropriation of \$20,000 for the Indian service in Utah for the remaining fiscal year ending June 30, 1863.

In view of the destitute condition of the Indians within that superintendency, as represented in said communication, and the fact that the very limited means appropriated by Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1863, have necessarily been exhausted for their support, I beg leave to recommend that Congress be requested to supply the deficiency by a further appropriation of \$20,000, to meet the wants of the service for the balance of the fiscal year ending 30th June next.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. P. DOLE, *Commissioner.*

Hon. JOHN P. USHER,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1862.

SIR: I have come to this city by direction of Hon. James Duane Doty, superintendent of Indian affairs for Utah Territory, to represent to you the destitute condition of the Indians in his superintendency, and the urgent necessity of immediately placing additional funds at his disposal to enable him to provide the necessary funds and clothing for the Indians to keep them quiet this winter and coming spring. You are aware that Congress appropriated for that superintendency for the current fiscal year only five thousand dollars, while heretofore from forty to sixty thousand dollars per annum has been appropriated for the same purpose. This curtailment works peculiarly hard with the Indians of Utah—more so, probably, than with any other Indians in the country—from the fact that the great body of their country is a desert country without vegetation or grain, whilst those portions that are tillable are quite all occupied by white people, and the game destroyed or driven off. This is peculiarly the case with the Indians inhabiting the country from Great Salt Lake City west to Nevada Territory, a distance of nearly three hundred miles, through which runs the overland mail and telegraph lines. These lines have been seriously threatened by the Indians in this section of country. During the last winter, to prevent the Indians from interfering with their stations and other property, the Overland Mail Company dealt out to them at their stations between Great Salt Lake City and Carson City, Nevada Territory, provisions to the amount of over twelve thousand dollars over and above what the government provided them for that purpose. They declare their inability to do this any longer.

By direction of the superintendent, I spent some time in the early part of last summer among those Indians, visiting them in their various locations. I found them very destitute, men, women, and children quite naked, and with scarcely anything to eat. It is really a matter of necessity with these Indians that they starve or steal, unless they receive assistance. Should an outbreak occur with these Indians, besides costing the government large expenditures to put it down, it would result in the suspension of the overland mail and telegraph lines for an indefinite period, to the very great detriment of every interest, public and private.

The superintendent estimates that he will require an additional sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to enable him to get the Indians in his superintend-

ency safely through this winter and the coming spring, and by his direction I make application to you for that amount.

The necessities of this case are urgent; and Congress having temporarily adjourned, and when it meets the forms of legislation necessarily require some time to procure the passage of a law making the appropriation, if there are any funds of unexpended appropriations that could properly be applied to these purposes, the public interests would be greatly subserved by making an immediate deposit of the money, subject to the superintendent's order, and notifying him by telegraph, that he may act upon it at once. I trust this may be done.

Hoping this may receive your early attention,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS REED,

Clerk Indian Superintendency of Utah Territory.

Hon. W. P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.