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Medals for Indian Chiefs. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, asking for an appropriation for medals for certain Indian chiefs.

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MEDALS FOR INDIAN CHIEFS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ASKING

*For an appropriation for medals for certain Indian chiefs.*

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FEBRUARY 2, 1865.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., February 1, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter of the 31st ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, suggesting that an appropriation of five thousand dollars be made to enable his office to provide for the usual distribution of medals to leading and influential Indian chiefs, and recommend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER, *Secretary.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office of Indian Affairs, January 31, 1865.*

SIR: It has been customary, on the inauguration of each successive President of the United States, for Congress to provide an appropriation for the purchase of medals to be distributed to leading and influential Indian chiefs. In the year 1861 a fund of five thousand dollars was provided for this purpose. The medals purchased with that appropriation have been for some time exhausted, and I respectfully recommend that the subject be laid before the proper committees of Congress, and that an appropriation of five thousand dollars may be asked for to enable this office to provide for the usual distribution of medals to the Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,  
*Chief Clerk, for the Commissioner.*

Hon. J. P. USHER,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*