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Deficiency for Indian Service in New Mexico. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 1910.)

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 16, 40th Cong., 3rd Sess. (1869)

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DEFICIENCY FOR INDIAN SERVICE IN NEW MEXICO.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 1910.]

FEBRUARY 9, 1869.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. B. F. BUTLER, from the Committee on Appropriations, made the following

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Appropriations, having examined the letter of the honorable Secretary of the Interior of January 23, 1869, transmitting the letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of January 22, asking for an appropriation to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the Indian service in New Mexico, amounting to \$13,581 60, report :

That it appearing that these expenditures were made in the years 1865 and 1866 in excess of appropriations, and without the authority of the bureau for making the purchases and incurring the indebtedment, although the Indians may have had the benefit of the purchases, the claim does not appear to arise from a deficiency of appropriation, but is a claim only against the United States. The agents making such purchases and the parties giving such credit stand in the nature of claimants upon the United States, and must look to the United States for reimbursement through the committee of Congress on private claims. These amounts can in no sense be said to be a deficiency of appropriation. The bureau expressly reports that "it gave no authority for the expenditure."

It is certainly high time that purchases unauthorized by the heads of departments should cease to be considered deficiencies, even if expenditures standing upon the authorization of the executive departments of the government ought in any case to be so considered.

The committee ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the communication of the honorable Secretary of the Interior, and accompanying documents, and that they be referred to the Committee of Claims.