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Supplies for Arapahoe and other Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in relation to an appropriation for the purpose of purchasing supplies for the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians

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SUPPLIES FOR ARAPAHOE AND OTHER INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RELATION TO

An appropriation for the purpose of purchasing supplies for the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians.

MARCH 21, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., March 14, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 13th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, reporting the necessity that exists for an appropriation for the purpose of purchasing supplies for the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians, to enable the Department to subsist them from and after the 30th of June next.

In view of the facts stated by the Commissioner, I submit the matter to Congress, with the recommendation that the sum of \$250,000 be appropriated, or so much thereof as may be necessary in furnishing said Indians with food and other necessaries of life, during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1872. The necessity for this appropriation is very great.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

Hon. JAS. G. BLAINE,
Speaker House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, March 13, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the appropriation made for the subsistence of the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians, during the second session of the Forty-first Congress, will doubtless be exhausted by the 30th of June next; and as there was no provision made for their subsistence in the last appropriation act for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the year

ending June 30, 1872, and for other purposes, there will be no money at the disposal of the Department that can be used to purchase subsistence for their use for the next fiscal year, unless Congress makes an appropriation for that purpose during its present session.

Should the feeding of these Indians be stopped after the 1st of July next, they will again scatter to the plains, being compelled to do so to procure food, and the labor and expense of locating them where they now are will have been of no use or permanent benefit, either to the Government or the Indians; besides, in all probability, they will, in view of their restless condition, commit depredations which would result in another war, and cost the Government thousands of dollars where it would not cost hundreds to feed them.

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully request that the matter be submitted to Congress, with the view of having an appropriation of \$250,000 made, to be used, or so much thereof as may be necessary, in furnishing said Indians with food and other necessities of life, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

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