

12-18-1873

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior,  
transmitting a special estimate of appropriations  
required to purchase subsistence for Indian tribes in  
the Indian Territory.

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SUBSISTENCE OF INDIANS IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*A special estimate of appropriations required to purchase subsistence for Indian tribes in the Indian Territory.*

DECEMBER 18, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., December 5, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a special estimate for appropriation of funds to subsist and properly care for the Kiowa and Comanche, Cheyenne and Arapahoe, and Wichita and other affiliated bands of Indians in the Indian Territory, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874. The amount required is \$75,000.

I also transmit a copy of a letter, dated the 4th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying copy of a communication, dated the 10th October, 1873, from the superintendent of Indian affairs, southern superintendency, reporting the necessity for furnishing the Indians referred to with subsistence, for the purchase of which an appropriation is asked, and, agreeably to the recommendation of the Commissioner, the estimate is respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration and action of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,  
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

*Estimate of appropriation required for subsisting certain tribes of Indians in the Indian Territory for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary to subsist and properly care for the Kiowa and Comanche, Cheyenne and Arapahoe, and Wichita and other affiliated bands of Indians in the Indian Territory, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874 ..... \$75,000

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., December 4, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to present, herewith, copies of a letter from Enoch Hoag, superintendent Indian affairs, central superintendency, dated the 29th October last, by which it appears that to subsist and properly care for the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita Indians in the Indian Territory, up to the end of the present fiscal year, additional means will have to be provided.

By the Indian appropriation act of February 14, 1873, (Stat., vol. 17, p. 440,) the sum of \$200,000 was set apart for the purchase of subsistence supplies for said Indians, including transportation of the same, of which amount there remains on the books of this office a balance of \$47,892.92.

The superintendent estimates that 50 per cent. of the amount contracted for will be required, in addition, of bacon, coffee, and sugar, and 25 per cent. of flour, to last until 1st of May next, which, computed at present contract rates, would involve the sum of \$34,169.65. Adding to this sum the amount of liabilities already contracted for beef and flour, and subject to payment hereafter, viz, \$52,533, and the amount necessary to feed the Indians during the two remaining months of May and June next, say \$26,382, the aggregate will be \$113,084, from which, after deducting the balance of \$47,892, reported on hand as above, will leave a deficiency of \$65,192, on account of supplies to be provided, exclusive of the cost of transportation to the various agencies, which will probably not be less than \$10,000.

Taking the above data as a basis for the calculation, I have caused to be prepared, and herewith submit, an estimate for the sum of \$75,000, with request that if the same meets your approval, it be laid before Congress for favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,  
Lawrence, Kansas, Tenthmonth 29, 1873.

Hon. E. P. SMITH, *Commissioner* :

I call attention to the fact that the amount of supplies purchased for the Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, affiliated Wichitas, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, is very much less in quantity than the aggregate amount for the same Indians last year. It is also important to consider that many of these Indians have, until recently, obtained much of their subsistence on the plains, in consequence of which a surplus was left in their commissaries last year. But most of these Indians, last autumn, were required to locate and remain near their agency, and were largely deprived of procuring meat and robes; and the Cheyennes and Arapahoes will probably be subject to like restrictions.

It therefore is very important that sufficient subsistence be in the several commissaries, and the purchase and transportation of the same ought not to be deferred, as it will be impossible to move the supplies in the spring months in consequence of usual high water and absence of forage. It is estimated that 50 per cent. of the amount purchased will be required, in addition, of coffee, bacon, and sugar, and 25 per cent. of flour, provided the Indians referred to be required to remain near their respective agencies, as they should do. The subsistence solicited will be consumed on or near 1st of Fifthmonth, 1874.

Respectfully,

ENOCH HOAG,  
Superintendent.