

4-24-1874

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior,
recommending an amendment to the bill (H. R.
2343) providing for the appointment of a
superintendent of education for the Indian
Territory

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 227, 43d Cong., 1st Sess. (1874)

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SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RECOMMENDING

An amendment to the bill (H. R. 2343) providing for the appointment of a superintendent of education for the Indian Territory.

APRIL 24, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., April 17, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication dated the 11th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recommending, for the reasons therein stated, that legislation be enacted providing for the appointment of a superintendent of education for the Indian Territory, whose salary and incidental expenses, not exceeding \$2,500 per annum, shall be paid by the Secretary of the Interior out of the educational funds of the different tribes in said Territory.

Concurring in the views of the Commissioner, the subject is respectfully presented, with the recommendation that the amendment to House bill 2343, as proposed by that officer for the accomplishment of the object suggested, receive the favorable consideration and action of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., April 11, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the honorable Secretary of the Interior to the fact that large sums of money, aggregating over \$120,000, are annually disbursed for educational purposes in the

Indian Territory, among the Chickasaws, Choctaws, Seminoles, Cherokees, and Creeks.

In the expenditure of these sums, the Department has no control or direction, nor does it receive any report from parties who administer the trust.

There is reason to believe that the schools might be made much more efficient for the education of Indian youth, if brought under the care of some competent person, who should devote his time to their supervision, and to such information and assistance as he might be able to give to the teachers and other educational officers of the nations,

If the honorable Secretary concurs in this view, I respectfully suggest that such legislation be procured as will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a superintendent of education for the Indian Territory, with a salary not exceeding \$2,000, and traveling, office, and other incidental expenses, not exceeding \$500, to be paid pro rata by the honorable Secretary of the Interior out of the educational funds of the different tribes in the Indian Territory.

In my judgment such an expenditure to this amount, out of these educational funds, will be more beneficially applied to this purpose than to any other, and I submit herewith the form of an amendment to the appropriation bill, to be inserted after the word "named," in line 23, page 79, House bill 2343, namely:

And provided further, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized to appoint a superintendent of education, who shall, under such instructions as may be given to him by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, approved by the Secretary of the Interior, have general supervision over all the schools established, or that may be established among the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Seminoles, in the Indian Territory.

Such superintendent shall be allowed an annual salary, including traveling and all incidental expenses of every kind, of \$2,500; the same to be paid pro rata from the educational fund of said tribes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW'D P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.