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Buildings for Seminole Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, asking for an appropriation for the erection of buildings on the reservation of the Seminole Indians

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BUILDINGS FOR SEMINOLE INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ASKING FOR

*An appropriation for the erection of buildings on the reservation of the Seminole Indians.*

JANUARY 16, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., January 11, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report dated the 9th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying estimate of appropriation for \$20,000, required to replace the sum appropriated by the act of July 28, 1866, under the provision of the 6th article of the treaty with the Seminoles of March 21, 1866, and 9th article of treaty with Creeks of June 14, 1866, for the erection of buildings on the reservations of said Indian tribes.

The appropriation heretofore made has, by act of Congress of 12th July, 1870, been placed beyond the control of this Department.

The attention of Congress is therefore respectfully invited to the subject with a view to such action by that body as may be necessary to enable the Department to apply said funds to the purposes for which they were appropriated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., January 9, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to invite attention to a report from this office of February 15, 1871, addressed to you by the then Commissioner, in the following words:

“Under the provisions of the 6th article of the treaty with Seminoles

of March 21, 1866, and 9th article of the treaty with Creeks of June 14, 1866, (Stats., vol. 14, pp. 758 and 788,) the sum of \$20,000 was, by the act of July 28, 1866, (Stats., vol. 14, pp. 319 and 320,) appropriated for the erection of suitable agency buildings on the reservations of said tribes.

"On the 7th September, 1867, these funds were placed in the hands of James Wortham, late superintendent of Indian affairs, and, on his removal from office, on the 15th July, 1868, transferred to his successor, Mr. L. N. Robinson.

"At the time of the rendition of his final accounts, up to September 30, 1869, the office of the southern superintendency having in the mean time been abolished, the funds referred to still remained in Mr. Robinson's hands, and were not restored to the Government until after the passage of the appropriation act of July 12, 1870, by the 5th and 6th sections of which (Stats., vol. 16, p. 251) these funds appear to be placed beyond the control of your Department.

"In order to enable this office to fulfill treaty stipulations with the Creeks and Seminoles, as herein referred to, I respectfully suggest that this matter may be laid before Congress, with the request that such action be taken in the premises as will replace at the disposal of your Department the sum of \$20,000, originally appropriated for the erection of agency buildings on their reservations."

The necessity for the legislation referred to in the above report still exists. The funds appropriated under treaty stipulations with the Creeks and Seminoles for the purpose indicated remain in the Treasury beyond the control of the Department, while the interest of the service and the obligations of the Government call for their use.

I would therefore respectfully ask that the attention of the present Congress be invited to this subject, with the view that such action be taken in the premises as may be necessary to enable the Department to use the said funds for the purposes for which they were appropriated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER, *Commissioner.*

Hon. C. DELANO,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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*Estimate of appropriation required for agency buildings at the Creek and Seminole agencies, Indian Territory.*

For this amount, to replace the sum appropriated by the act of July 28, 1866, under the provision of the 6th article of treaty with Seminoles of March 21, 1866, and 9th article of the treaty with Creeks of June 14, 1866, for the erection of agency buildings on the reservations of said tribes..... \$20,000 00