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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an amendment to Indian Appropriation Bill, asking an appropriation to extinguish rights to hunt, under treaty of April 29, 1868, with Sioux Indians

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SIoux INDIANS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUBMITTING

*An amendment to Indian appropriation bill, asking an appropriation to extinguish rights to hunt, under treaty of April 29, 1868, with Sioux Indians.*

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FEBRUARY 3, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., February 1, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 30th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to an amendment to the Indian appropriation bill, proposed by the Hon. W. R. Steele, of Wyoming Territory, whose letter on the subject, dated the 28th ultimo, addressed to this Department, is also transmitted.

The amendment involves an appropriation of \$50,000, an estimate for which is submitted, for the purpose of extinguishing the rights of the Sioux Indians, claimed by them under the provisions of the eleventh and sixteenth articles of the Sioux treaty of April 29, 1868, to the country north of the North Platte and east of the summits of the Big Horn Mountains, and to hunt over the same.

The objects proposed in the amendment referred to meet the unqualified approval of this Department, and the subject is commended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
C. DELANO, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 30, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from you, of a communication from Hon. W. R. Steele, of Wyoming Territory, dated January 28, 1875, submitting a proposed amendment to the Indian appropriation bill, making an appropriation of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for presents to the Sioux Indians of the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, with a view to the extinguish-

ment of the rights mentioned in the 11th and 16th articles of the treaty concluded with the Sioux Indians, April 29, 1868, as follows:

Add, after line 1338, on page 55 of bill, as an additional section, the words—

“For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purchase of presents, or for the civilization of the Sioux of the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, or for such other purposes as the Secretary of the Interior may deem best for their benefit, on condition that said Indians shall surrender the right claimed under treaty stipulations, to have the lands north of the North Platte River and east of the summits of the Big Horn Mountains, in the Territory of Wyoming, held and considered as unceded Indian territory, and also the right so claimed to hunt over the same: Fifty thousand dollars.

“And the President of the United States is hereby authorized to appoint a commissioner to negotiate with said Indians for the relinquishment and surrender of the said rights and privileges.”

In reply I have respectfully to state that the objects proposed in the amendment referred to, meet with the cordial approval of this Office.

It is very desirable to put an end to these hunting parties north of the North Platte River, as they are of no material advantage to the Indians engaged in such hunts, (since the buffalo have in the main left the country,) but are a source of continual annoyance to white settlers in that country, and so long as said rights are not extinguished the settlement of that country will be postponed.

The communication of Mr. Steele is herewith respectfully returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWD. P. SMITH,

*Commissioner.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, D. C., January 28, 1875.*

DEAR SIR: I respectfully submit for your consideration the inclosed proposed amendment to the Indian appropriation bill, and request your approval of the same, if consistent with your sense of duty, and, in that connection, beg leave to call your attention to inclosed copy of letter from the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The extinguishment of the rights mentioned in the amendment have been recommended by Doctor Cox, Mr. Hinman, Mr. Lines, and, I believe, by all conversant with the facts, and the desirableness and necessity for such action has never been doubted or reported against. The success of the proposed negotiations would do much to advance the development, peace, and prosperity of the entire section of country mentioned.

Very respectfully,

W. R. STEELE.

Hon. C. DELANO,

*Secretary of the Interior.*

*Proposed amendment.*

Add, after line 1338, on page 55 of bill, as an additional section, the words—

“For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purchase of presents or for the civilization of the Sioux of the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, or for such other purpose as the Secretary of the Interior may deem best for their benefit, on condition that said Indians shall surrender the right claimed under treaty stipulations, to have the land north of the North Platte River and east of the summits of the Big Horn Mountains, in the Territory of Wyoming, held and considered as unceded Indian territory, and also the right, so claimed, to hunt over the same: Fifty thousand dollars. And the President of the United States is hereby authorized to appoint a commission to negotiate with said Indians for the relinquishment and surrender of the said rights and privileges.”