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Message from the President of the United States  
communicating Further information in relation to  
certain negotiations with the Indians in Colorado,  
under the act of May 3, 1873

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## M E S S A G E

FROM THE

# PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

*Further information in relation to certain negotiations with the Indians in Colorado, under the act of May 3, 1873.*

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FEBRUARY 22, 1879.—Read, referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

Referring to my communication to Congress under date of the 8th instant, transmitting the report of the commission appointed under the act entitled "An act authorizing the President of the United States to make certain negotiations with the Ute Indians in the State of Colorado," I submit herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior and additional papers upon the same subject.

R. B. HAYES.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
February 21, 1879.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, February 20, 1879.

SIR: Referring to my letter of the 5th instant, submitting, for presentation to Congress, in accordance with the direction of the act of May 3, 1878, entitled "An act authorizing the President of the United States to make certain negotiations with the Ute Indians in the State of Colorado," the report of proceedings had by said commission, with a draft of proposed legislation ratifying the same, I now have the honor to present a draft of an additional section to said bill, authorizing the President to continue the negotiations with said Indians for the relinquishment of their lands and securing to them a more suitable and permanent reservation.

The letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs presenting the additional section, with copies of the same in duplicate, will be found herewith.

I concur in the recommendation of the Commissioner, and the subject is respectfully submitted for presentation to Congress, if found to be in accordance with your views.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,

C. SCHURZ,  
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, February 19, 1879.

SIR: At the verbal request of the honorable J. B. Chaffee, and in connection with office letter of the 3d instant, transmitting the report of the commissioners appointed under the provisions of the act of May 3, 1878, to negotiate with the Ute Indians in Colorado, I have the honor to submit herewith a draft of an additional section to the bill accompanying said report, authorizing the President to continue the negotiations with said Indians, looking to a complete cession of their lands in Colorado and their settlement on a new reservation more accessible and available for their use.

It is urged, with considerable force, that their present reservation, even with the reduction provided for in the recent negotiations, is entirely too large for the number of Indians residing thereon, embracing, as it does, an estimated area of 10,500,000 acres of land.

Aside from this fact, a large proportion of the lands now occupied by them is entirely unsuited to their use, much of it being mountainous and valuable principally for minerals, in which it is very rich. The matter of the transportation of supplies to the Utes is likewise important to be considered in this connection. It is believed that arrangements can be made with these Indians for their settlement in a more accessible location, and on a largely diminished reservation, suitable for their use.

I have the honor to inclose herewith duplicate copies of said section, and also of this report, for transmission to the President, with a view of its presentation to Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HAYT,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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SEC. 4. That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to continue negotiations with the Ute Indians for the extinguishment of their title to the lands now occupied by them in the State of Colorado; and for their removal to a reservation where they can be made self-sustaining by agriculture and stock-raising, the expenses of such negotiations to be paid by the United States; for which purpose the sum of five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys now in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior for the purposes named in this section.

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