

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

12-11-1883

Deficiency for the Indian Bureau. Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior relative to a deficiency in the appropriation for the Indian Bureau

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 18, 48th Cong., 1st Sess. (1883)

This House Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

1883-74

DEFICIENCY FOR THE INDIAN BUREAU.

M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of the Interior relative to a deficiency in the appropriation for the Indian Bureau.

DECEMBER 11, 1883.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

To the SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I transmit herewith a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, inclosing a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, setting forth the necessity of a deficiency appropriation of \$60,000 for the immediate wants of his Bureau.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
December 11, 1883.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 10, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, setting forth the necessity of a deficiency appropriation of \$60,000 for the immediate wants of his Bureau, and beg to recommend that the same be forwarded to Congress for its favorable consideration.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 4, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a special deficiency estimate required to meet the immediate wants of this Bureau for the fiscal year 1884, amounting to \$60,000.

In explanation of the different items composing the same, I would state that the amount of \$5,000, estimated for "pay of interpreters, 1884," is required to pay for the service of the necessary interpreters during the current fiscal year. The amount ap-

propriated by Congress for the fiscal year 1883 was \$25,000, which sum was reduced for the current fiscal year to \$20,000, and which has proven to be entirely insufficient to meet the demands of this office. In many cases competent interpreters have refused to serve on account of insufficient compensation, and as the law requires that all payment to Indians be witnessed by interpreters, means sufficient to carry out the law should be put at the disposal of this office; and I hope Congress will see the necessity for this deficiency and grant it at an early day.

Under the head of "telegraphing and purchase of Indian supplies," the sum of \$40,000 has been appropriated for the current fiscal year. From this amount all expenses of purchasing goods and supplies for the Indian service, including rent of warehouse and pay of employes in New York, inspection of all purchases, all advertising for the Indian service, including telegraphing, &c., must be paid. Section 3 of the act of Congress making appropriations for the Indian service for the fiscal year 1883, approved March 1, 1883, forbids the purchase of supplies in open market in excess of \$500, except in cases of exigency the Secretary of the Interior may authorize purchases in open market to an amount not exceeding \$3,000 and report said exigency to Congress at its next session.

All purchases above \$500, except in cases of exigency, must be made under the law by giving at least three weeks' notice by advertisement, and this, in addition to a number of advertisements published calling for bids for the erection of school buildings at Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Wichita, Ind. T.; Genoa, Nebr.; Chilocco, Ind. T.; Lawrence, Kans.; Devil's Lake, Dak.; Rosebud, Dak., and a number of others, has increased the expenditures of advertising considerably, and the sum of \$5,000 estimated for under the head of "telegraphing and purchase of Indian supplies" is absolutely required to pay liabilities incurred and which must be incurred before the 30th of June, 1884.

The amount of \$50,000 estimated for under the head of "support of Indians in Montana" is absolutely required to keep the Indians at Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, and Blackfeet Agencies from starving. Reports from inspectors and special agents on file in this office show that the wild game, which in former years to a large extent kept the Indians at the above-named agencies from starving, can no longer be relied upon for that purpose, and unless this office is furnished with additional means to feed these Indians they will either commit depredations on the white settlers or starve.

I inclose herewith a copy of a letter from the agency physician at Blackfeet Agency, Montana, addressed to Inspector Howard, reporting a case of starvation among the Blackfeet, and in view of the absolute necessity for additional supplies, I respectfully ask that a copy of the estimate, together with this letter, be transmitted by you direct to each House of Congress, through the President, with a request for immediate action.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

BLACKFEET AGENCY, MONTANA, *November 16, 1883.*

DEAR SIR: Heretofore I have had rice, tea, and coffee, also beans (when advisable) to order for the sick, all of which they are now deprived of from the fact that these articles are all gone. There is a pressing necessity, especially for tea and rice, in the treatment of the sick. This insufficiency of food frequently retards, and in some cases, prevents recovery from disease.

This day a case of actual starvation has come under my own observation. A girl of five or six years of age was taken to an unoccupied house, with no floor or fire in it; in fact nothing in the room at all, save a dead cat, on which the child was lying with a few rags thrown over it. The child, who was an orphan, was not considered sick by the neighbors, but in a dying condition from starvation, and as the family with whom she was living had no food, they took it out there to die. This case I consider as one of the many that should impress the Department with the necessity of extending a helping hand, and that right speedily.

Yours, truly,

H. A. GILLETTE, *M. D.*

General C. H. HOWARD,
United States Indian Inspector.

Special estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, by the Indian Office.

[See Revised Statutes, Title 41, page 720, sections 3660 to 3671, and Statutes 18, chapter 129, page 370, section 3, act of March 3, 1875.]

Detailed objects of expenditure and explanations.	Total amount to be appropriated under each head of appropriation.	Amount appropriated for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1884.
Pay of interpreters:		
Amount necessary to pay indebtedness incurred on account of pay of interpreters for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, appropriated 22 Stat., p. 434, sec. 1.....	\$5,000 00	\$20,000 00
Telegraphing and purchase of Indian supplies:		
Amount necessary to pay indebtedness incurred and to be incurred on account of telegraphing, advertising, inspection, &c., during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, appropriated 22 Stat., p. 409, sec. 1.....	5,000 00	40,000 00
Support of Indians in Montana:		
Amount necessary to pay indebtedness incurred and to be incurred for support and civilization of Indians in Montana for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, appropriated 22 Stat., p. 446, sec. 1.....	50,000 00	138,000 00
Total	60,000 00	

C