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1-14-1884

**Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication of 10th instant, from Secretary of the Interior, submitting an estimate of appropriation for the settlement, under existing treaties, of certain freedmen and their descendants upon lands known as the Oklahoma District, Indian Territory.**

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### Recommended Citation

S. Exec. Doc. No. 51, 48th Cong., 1st Sess. (1884)

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1884-8

## MESSAGE

FROM THE

# PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*A communication of 10th instant, from Secretary of the Interior, submitting an estimate of appropriation for the settlement, under existing treaties, of certain freedmen and their descendants upon lands known as the Oklahoma district, Indian Territory.*

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JANUARY 14, 1884.—Read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I transmit herewith a communication of 10th instant, from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting, with accompanying papers, an estimate of appropriation, in the sum of \$25,000, for the settlement, under existing treaties, of certain freedmen and their descendants upon lands known as the Oklahoma district within the Indian Territory.

The matter is presented for the consideration of the Congress.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
January 14, 1884.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, January 10, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith an estimate of appropriation, in the sum of \$25,000, presented with accompanying papers by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to enable this Department to place certain freedmen and descendants upon lands within what is known as the Oklahoma district, in the Indian Territory, as provided in existing treaties.

At the last session of Congress this matter was presented by letters addressed, respectively, to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, but owing, perhaps, to the pressure of other business it failed to receive action, so far as this Department is advised.

I respectfully recommend that the matter may be presented for the favorable consideration and action of the Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. TELLER,  
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

*Estimate.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to enable the Secretary of the Interior to settle such persons of African descent, and their descendants, as are mentioned in the treaties with the Seminoles, Choctaw and Chickasaw, Creek, and Cherokee Indians, dated, respectively, March 21, April 23, June 14, and July 19, 1866, upon the lands ceded to the United States by the Seminole and Creek Indians in their treaties dated, respectively, March 21 and June 14, 1866, for the location of other Indians and freedmen thereon: *Provided*, That of the lands referred to in said treaties with the Seminole and Creek Indians, upon application made and proof submitted to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Interior that the applicant is entitled thereto, there shall be assigned to each head of a family, of the class of persons herein named, 160 acres; to each single person over twenty-one years, 80 acres; and to each orphan child under twenty-one years, 80 acres, the sum of \$25,000, to be immediately available, out of which sum there shall be paid the necessary expense incident to carrying out these provisions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, January 8, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to invite attention to office report of February 27, 1883 (copy herewith), submitting the draft of an item authorizing the Secretary of the Interior, under certain conditions and restrictions, to settle in the country known as the Oklahoma district, in the Indian Territory, ceded to the United States by the Creek and Seminole Nation of Indians, by their respective treaties of 1866 (14 Stat., pp. 786, 756), such persons of African descent (including their descendants) as are mentioned in the third article of the treaties aforesaid, and in the treaties made in 1866 with the remaining civilized nations (14 Stat., pp. 769, 799.)

It is respectfully recommended that the subject be again laid before Congress, with the request that the item be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill, and that the necessary appropriation be made to carry the same into effect.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 28, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to invite attention to the inclosed copy of letter, of 27th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, presenting an item for insertion in the deficiency bill now before your committee, appropriating the sum of \$25,000, to become immediately available, to enable the Secretary of the Interior to settle persons of African descent, noted in the treaties of 1866 with the Seminole, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations of Indians, upon lands ceded for such and other purposes to the United States by the Seminole and the Creek Nations of Indians in their two several treaties of March 27, 1866, and June 14, 1866, respectively. (See third article treaty of 1866 with Seminoles, 14 Stat., 756; third article treaty of 1866 with Creeks, 14 Stat., 786.)

I approve of the object of this appropriation, and I respectfully urge the early and favorable attention and action of the committee and of the Congress to the subject.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. W. B. ALLISON,  
*Chairman Senate Committee on Appropriations.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, February 27, 1883.

SIR: By article 3 of the treaty of 1866 (14 Stat., 758), in compliance with the desire of the United States to locate other Indians and freedmen thereon, the Seminole Indians ceded to the Government their entire domain, &c. By the third article of the treaty of 1866 with the Creeks (*Id.*, 786), said Indians, in compliance with the desire of the United States to locate other Indians and freedmen thereon, ceded and conveyed to the Government the west half of their entire domain, &c. The eastern portion of these two cessions is what is understood to be the Oklahoma district. There is now in this city a delegation of colored persons, representing the various classes of freedmen mentioned in the several treaties of 1866 with the five civilized tribes, which freedmen, the delegation represent, are now anxious to avail themselves of their right to settle in the country ceded by the Seminole and Creek Indians in the treaties aforesaid.

I think there can be no doubt as to the right of the United States to settle them in the country referred to, and believe that the best interests of the freedmen will be subserved by settling them there.

I have therefore had prepared, and submit herewith, a draft of an item intended to be inserted in the deficiency bill now before the House Committee on Appropriations, appropriating \$25,000, to be immediately available, to enable the Secretary of the Interior to settle in the country named such persons of African descent and their descendants as are mentioned in the treaties with the Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw, Creek and Cherokee Indians of March 21, April 28, June 14, and July 19, 1866, respectively, with authority to the Secretary of the Interior, upon application made and proof submitted to his satisfaction that the applicant is entitled thereto, to assign 160 acres to each head of a family, 80 acres to each single person over twenty-one years of age, and 80 acres to each orphan child under twenty-one years, which item, if you concur with the views herein expressed, I have the honor to recommend be transmitted to the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, with the request that the same be placed on the deficiency bill.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.