

12-21-1870

Navajo Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior submitting Joint resolution to render an appropriation of \$75,000 available for feeding Navajo Indians

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NAVAJO INDIANS.

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LETTER.

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

SUBMITTING

*Joint resolution to render an appropriation of \$75,000 available for feeding Navajo Indians.*

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DECEMBER 21, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., December 19, 1870.*

SIR: The accompanying copy of a communication, dated the 7th instant, from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the form of a joint resolution, therein referred to, are herewith respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration and action of Congress, in order that the appropriation of \$75,000 for the subsistence of the Navajo Indians in New Mexico, for the year ending June 30, 1870, made by act approved July 15, 1870, may be made available by this Department for the benefit of said Indians during the current fiscal year.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. OTTO,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., December 7, 1870.*

SIR: In the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June 30, 1871, and for other purposes, there is a provision "for this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for subsistence of the Navajo Indians in New Mexico, for the year ending June 30, 1870, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, \$75,000."

You will perceive that the amount appropriated is intended to be expended up to and including the year ending June 30, 1870, when in fact

the act making the appropriation was not approved until July 15, 1870, thus precluding the possibility of making the sum appropriated available, when you consider section No. 5 of the act making appropriations for the judiciary, which provides "that all balances of appropriations contained in the annual appropriation bills, and made specifically for the service of any fiscal year and remaining unexpended at the expiration of such fiscal year, shall only be applied to the payment of expenses properly incurred during that year, or to the fulfillment of contracts properly made within that year, and such balances not needed for the said purpose shall be carried to the surplus fund," &c. (Pamphlet copy of laws, 41st Congress, page 251.)

As the appropriation was made, it is impossible to use it, and as the Indians are reported to be in destitute and starving condition, the whole or greater part thereof well be required for the subsistence of those Indians before June 30, 1871. I have prepared a joint resolution, which is herewith inclosed, to be submitted to Congress if it meet with your concurrence, striking out the words eighteen hundred and seventy, and inserting eighteen hundred and seventy-one, in order that the funds may be applied for the benefit of the Navajo Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

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

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JOINT RESOLUTION to amend the paragraph providing for the appropriation of seventy-five thousand dollars to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, for the subsistence of the Navajo Indians in New Mexico, of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June thirty, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and for other purposes," approved July 15, eighteen hundred and seventy.

*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the paragraph of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June thirty, eighteen hundred and seventy-one, and for other purposes," approved July fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy, which is as follows, viz: "For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary for subsistence of the Navajo Indians in New Mexico, for the year ending June thirty, eighteen hundred and seventy, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, seventy-five thousand dollars," be and the same is hereby amended by striking out the words "eighteen hundred and seventy," and inserting in lieu thereof the words *eighteen hundred and seventy-one.**