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Resolution of the Legislature of Texas, asking the appointment of a joint committee to inquire into and report upon the outrages committed in that state during the past five years by bands of Indians living within the United States, and harbored within the Republic of Mexico

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## RESOLUTION

OF

# THE LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS,

ASKING

*The appointment of a joint committee to inquire into and report upon the outrages committed in that State during the past five years by bands of Indians living within the United States, and harbored within the republic of Mexico.*

MARCH 28, 1871.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

Whereas by the terms of the joint resolution of the Congress of the United States of December 29, 1845, admitting Texas into the Union as one of the States thereof, it was declared that the State of Texas was "admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever;" and whereas section 4 of article 4 of the Constitution of the United States provides, among other things, that the United States shall protect each of the States "against invasion;" and whereas during the last five years the State of Texas has been invaded constantly by bands of Indians living within the boundaries of the United States, and with some of which bands the Government of the United States has at different times made treaties of peace, and some of which bands have been fed and clothed by the Government of the United States; and whereas said Indians during the last five years have murdered several hundreds of the citizens of Texas, have stolen and destroyed property to the amount of millions of dollars in value, have not only retarded the settlement of the frontier counties of the State, but have almost depopulated several of the counties thereof most exposed to their invasions, and are at present actively engaged in their hellish work of murder, outrage and plunder; and whereas during the last five years bands of Indians, known as the "Kickapoos" and "Lipans," have found a safe asylum within the territory of the republic of Mexico contiguous to the western frontier of Texas, from which territory they have made repeated invasions each year into the western counties of Texas, murdering and carrying into captivity many citizens of Texas, and returning to Mexico laden with property captured from the people of Texas, with the full knowledge of the Mexican authorities, and without any opposition thereto having been offered by the Mexican authorities up to the present time; and it is fully believed that not less than one hundred of the citizens of Texas have been murdered and carried into captivity by said Indians during the last five years, while the work of murder and plunder was never more actively carried on by said Indians than at the present time; and whereas during the last five years the Government of the United States has failed to make good its guarantee to protect the State of Texas "against invasion," and the State of Texas

is not allowed to make war upon the savages who are under the protection of the United States, and ravage our frontiers and murder our citizens, nor to make war upon the Indians who find a safe asylum in Mexico, from whence they invade our western counties, and the people of Texas are thus placed at the mercy of these savages without the means of retaliation; and whereas the appeals of the people of Texas to the Government of the United States for the relief and protection to which they are justly entitled have been unheeded, and it has been asserted in the Congress of the United States that the statements of Indian outrages in Texas are greatly exaggerated, and in the main have been fabricated by interested parties desiring contracts, &c.; and whereas the Congress of the United States has at different times sent committees into the different parts of the Union to inquire into and report upon the murder of numbers of its citizens: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the legislature of the State of Texas,* That the Congress of the United States is hereby earnestly petitioned to send a joint committee from both Houses to the frontiers of Texas to inquire into and report upon the facts set forth in the preamble to this resolution, to the end that the State of Texas may be protected by the United States against further invasion.

*Be it further resolved,* That our Senators are hereby instructed to do all in their power to secure the appointment of a joint committee for the purpose stated in the foregoing resolution.

*Be it further resolved,* That copies of this preamble and resolution be forwarded as soon as possible to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and to each one of our Senators.

Approved March 15, 1871.

STATE DEPARTMENT, *Austin, Texas:*

I, James P. Newcomb, secretary of state for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original joint resolution of the legislature of this State on file in my office.

Witness my hand and official seal, at office, in the city of Austin, this 16th day of March, A. D. 1871, and of the independence of the United States the ninety-fifth and of Texas the thirty-sixth.

[SEAL.]

JAS. P. NEWCOMB,

*Secretary of State.*

Per J. E. OLDRIGHT,

*Acting Secretary of State.*