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**Letter from the acting Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, in response to Senate resolutions of May 10 and June 21, 1886, a letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to certain Indian traders**

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LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING,

*In response to Senate resolutions of May 10 and June 21, 1886, a letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to certain Indian traders.*

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JUNE 23, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Traders and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, June 23, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Senate resolution of June 21, 1886, in the following words:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to inform the Senate whether or not he received the resolution of this body of May 10, 1886, calling for information as to the renewal or non-renewal of licenses to Indian traders; and the grounds upon which the renewal of licenses to such Indian traders were refused; and if said resolution has been received by him, why it has not been answered, and when a response thereto may be expected.

I have the honor to state in reply, that the resolution of May 10, 1886, referred to, was received by this Department on May 11, and was on the same date referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for report.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his letter of 22d instant (copy inclosed), states his reasons for delaying his report upon the resolution of May 10, and also forwards statement prepared by him on the 25th ultimo, in reply to, said resolution, a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully,

D. L. HAWKINS,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

\*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., June 22, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to state that a communication, in reply to Senate resolution of May 10, 1886, referred by you to this office, was prepared, when a second resolution, covering the same subject, passed the Senate, and the reply to the first was withheld, pending the final disposition of the second resolution, upon the ground that the information expected to be obtained by the investigation under the second resolution would be an answer to the first.

The resolution of May 10 directs that the Senate be informed whether any applications for the renewal of licenses of Indian traders have been refused by the Secretary of the Interior, or any officer of the Interior Department, and if so, the names of all traders whose licenses have not been renewed on application, with the agency at which each of the same was located; also whether any charges were presented against such traders, or any of them, and if not, upon what ground and by what authority of law the renewal of such licenses, or any of them, was denied.

In reply to the above resolution, I have the honor to refer to the act of Congress of August 15, 1876, concerning the appointment of Indian traders, which is as follows:

And hereafter the Commissioner of Indian Affairs shall have the sole power and authority to appoint traders to the Indian tribes, and to make such rules and regulations as he may deem just and proper, specifying the kind and quantity of goods and the prices at which such goods shall be sold to the Indians.

I construe the above act to confer upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs the full power to appoint and to refuse to reappoint an Indian trader, whenever in his discretion the interests of the service would be subserved by such action. I have renewed the licenses of a number of old traders, and in many cases I have exercised the power conferred in the statute above referred to, and have refused a renewal of license to parties against whom no formal charges had been filed when I believed the general policy of the office and the interests of the Indians would be promoted by a change.

I inclose the statement prepared on the 25th ultimo, which would have been presented but for the reason given in the opening paragraph of this letter.

The license of an Indian trader is granted for only one year, and in nearly every case where a renewal was refused the license was allowed to expire by natural limitation, and in some cases was allowed to continue several months after its legal expiration.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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MAY 25, 1886.

The following statement is herewith transmitted to the honorable Secretary of the Interior, in answer to Senate resolution of May 10, 1886, showing the names of all Indian traders who have been refused a renewal of license to trade with the Indians during the present admin-

istration, the agencies where such traders were located, and showing in each case whether there are any charges against the parties named:

State.	Agency.	Name of trader.	Remarks.
Arizona .....	San Carlos .....	E. W. Cowles .....	Charges.
Colorado .....	Southern Ute .....	George M. Drake .....	No charges.
		Edward Schiffer .....	No charges (once renewed).
Dakota .....	Cheyenne River .....	W. E. Caton .....	Charges.
	Crow Creek .....	H. F. Clough & Co .....	Charges.
		A. J. Carrier .....	Charges.
	Pine Ridge .....	Fry & Robinson .....	No charges.
		G. F. Blanchard .....	No charges.
		White & Gillingham .....	No charges.
		Eldon Sparks .....	Charges.
	Rosebud .....	Felt & Jordan .....	No charges.
		Louis Richard .....	No charges.
Idaho .....	Fort Hall .....	S. G. Fisher .....	No charges.
Indian Territory.	Cheyenne and Arapaho .....	Hemphill & Woy .....	No charges.
		T. Connell .....	Charges.
		Reynolds, Doty & Hubbell .....	No charges.
	Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita .....	C. A. Cleveland & Co .....	Charges.
		M. B. Harris & Co .....	No charges.
	Ponca .....	J. H. Sherburne .....	No charges.
	Pawnee .....	Matlack & Bishop .....	No charges.
	Osage .....	Bartles & Pratt .....	No charges (Bartles relicensed).
		Finney & Schiffbauer .....	No charges (Schiffbauer relicensed).
		Frank Labadie, jr .....	No charges.
	Sac and Fox .....	Davis & Bruner .....	No charges.
		Clay, Clarke & Co .....	No charges.
		Pilcher & Hubbard .....	No charges.
		W. R. Little & Co .....	Charges.
Kansas .....	Pottawatomie and Great Nemaha .....	S. M. Brosius .....	No charges.
Minnesota .....	White Earth .....	T. B. Beaulieu .....	No charges.
		James Bouga .....	No charges.
Montana .....	Flathead .....	N. A. Lambert .....	No charges.
		T. G. Demers .....	No charges.
	Fort Peck .....	G. H. Fairchild .....	Charges.
		Charles Aubrey .....	No charges.
Nevada .....	Nevada .....	E. Griswold .....	Charges.
New Mexico .....	Mescalero .....	George W. Llewellyn .....	No charges.
	Pueblo .....	J. W. Miller .....	No charges.
Washington Territory.	Neah Bay .....	S. Baxter & Co .....	Charges.
Wisconsin .....	Green Bay .....	M. Westcott .....	Charges.
	La Pointe .....	J. Allen .....	No charges.
		L. E. Homes .....	No charges.

The above statement is respectfully submitted.

J. D. C. ATKINS,  
Commissioner.