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4-21-1826

### [Resolution offered my Mr. Johnston, of Louisiana]

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#### Recommended Citation

S. Doc. No. 82, 19th Cong., 1st Sess. (1826)

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

APRIL 21, 1826.

Mr. BENTON laid the following document on the table :

- WASHINGTON CITY, *March 25, 1826.*

DEAR SIR: I observe in the National Journal of the 21st, a resolution, offered by Mr. Johnston, of Louisiana, "instructing the Committee on Indian Affairs to inquire into the expediency of regulating and equalizing the compensation of the Superintendent and Agents of Indian Affairs."

Permit me to observe, that the compensation allowed by law to a portion of the officers in the Superintendency at St. Louis, is not in proportion to the duties performed by them. The Superintendent receives \$1,500 per annum ; under him is placed six Principal Agents and twelve Sub-Agents ; five of the Sub-Agents are in charge of separate Tribes. All those Agents and Sub-Agents settle their accounts with, report to, and receive their instructions through, the Superintendent, and he is made accountable for all disbursements of moneys within his superintendency; his accountability is great, and as the duties assigned to the Superintendent are arduous and *increasing*, his compensation should be increased in proportion to his labors and responsibility.

The salaries of Agents should be equalized according to their responsibility and labor—(keeping in view the importance of their respective Agencies)—the largest salary is now \$1800, and the lowest \$1200.

Sub-Agents have, at present, very unequal duties to perform, and all except two, on the Missouri, have the same pay, *to wit*: \$500 per annum. Some of those Sub-Agents have no Principal Agent over them ; they do the whole business ; saving the United States the salary of a Principal. All Sub-Agents of this description, ought to have their compensation raised to an equality with those on the Upper Missouri, *to wit* : \$800 dollars per annum.

I have the honor to be,

With high respect,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. CLARK.

Hon. THOS. H. BENTON.