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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 83, 22nd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1833)

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PAY FOR HORSES LOST—FRONTIERS ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN.

FEBRUARY 6, 1833.

Mr. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, to which had been referred the bill from the Senate, (No. 20,) for the payment of horses and arms lost in the military service of the United States against the Sac and Fox Indians, on the frontiers of Illinois and the Michigan Territory, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred a bill from the Senate for the payment of horses and arms lost in the military service of the United States against the Sac and Fox Indians, on the frontiers of Illinois and the Michigan Territory, report:

That the same subject was referred to the committee by the House, on a resolution offered by the honorable Mr. Duncan, and engaged the attention of the committee at an early period of the session. Business immediately pressing on the time of the committee prevented a report, until the bill was reported in the Senate; and the committee then deferred any further action on the resolution until the bill in the Senate should be disposed of. By comparing the provisions of the bill with the acts of 9th of April, 1816, and 3d of March, 1817, it will be seen they are extended, as to the loss of horses, in this, to wit, that the owner is to be paid for his horse, if the loss is "in consequence of forced marches, swimming rivers, or in any other manner necessarily connected with, and in consequence of said service." The laws referred to have been the rule of action by the Commissioner of Claims, by the Third Auditor, or by Congress, from the period of their enactment to the present time, in all cases of loss during the late war. The committee do not see any necessity for enlarging the principles of those acts, so as to embrace other cases not therein enumerated. If the accounting officers should construe these words, "or in any other manner necessarily connected with, and in consequence of said services," to embrace other losses than those specified, there is no necessity of any specification, for all losses would be embraced by this general clause. If it is not intended to enlarge the cases, they should be stricken out as unnecessary, and as tending to gender strife between claimants and the accounting officers. Losses by swimming is an entire new provision not embraced in the laws mentioned, nor in the act for the relief of those engaged in campaign against the Seminole Indians, passed May 4th, 1822; nor in the act amendatory thereto, passed May 26, 1824. So far from extending the provisions of the act of 1816 and 1817, by the acts of 1822 and 1824, the latter acts are more re-

stricted than the former. The committee are admonished by this circumstance, that the House would not assent to an enlargement of the acts of 1816 and 1817.

The committee do not see the necessity of limiting the compensation to losses sustained in the expedition against the Sac and Fox Indians, when it is known other Indians were engaged, and they believe the designation would embarrass the claimants in settling for their losses.

The committee recommend that the bill be amended as follows:

In the 4th line strike out "Sac and Fox;" in the 13th line, commencing at the word *or*, after battle, strike out the residue of the line, the 14th line, and the 15th line, to the word *service*, inclusive. Amend the title of the bill by striking out "Sac and Fox."