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Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of a communication from the Acting Attorney-General requesting a further appropriation to pay certain judgments of the Court of Claims in Indian depredation cases.

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JUDGMENTS OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS IN INDIAN
DEPREDAATION CASES.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE ACTING ATTORNEY-
GENERAL REQUESTING A FURTHER APPROPRIATION TO PAY
CERTAIN JUDGMENTS OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS IN INDIAN
DEPREDAATION CASES.

FEBRUARY 2, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be
printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., February 1, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of
Congress, copy of a communication from the Acting Attorney-General,
of the 29th ultimo, requesting a further appropriation of \$75,000 to
pay certain judgments of the Court of Claims in Indian depredation
cases, rendered in 1892 and 1893, and reported to Congress in Senate
Executive Documents No. 7, parts 1 and 2, and Nos. 82 and 128, Fifty-
third Congress, second session.

Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Washington, D. C., January 29, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to request that an estimate be submitted to
Congress for an appropriation of \$75,000, or so much thereof as may be
necessary, to pay certain judgments in the Court of Claims in favor of
claimants in Indian depredation cases, rendered in 1892 and 1893, and
reported to the Fifty-third Congress, second session, in Senate Execu-
tive Documents Nos. 7 (parts 1 and 2), 82, and 128. An appropriation
of \$175,000 was made (26 Stat. L., p. 476) to apply toward the payment
of the judgments referred to, the understanding being that motions for

new trial would be made by the Government in a large number of the cases.

I am informed by your Department that that appropriation has been exhausted. Many of the motions for new trial have not yet been passed upon by the court, and when, as in some cases happens, such motions are overruled, thus restoring the judgments to force, there is no appropriation out of which they can be paid. There are now pending motions for new trial in cases in which the judgments heretofore rendered aggregate about \$65,000, and there are unpaid judgments in which the defendants' motions for new trial have been overruled aggregating about \$20,000. There are also some cases still pending in which the defendants' motions for new trial have been allowed.

Unless special provision is made by Congress there is no means of paying these judgments. Many of the claimants are of advanced age and reduced circumstances, and are in need of the money which has been adjudged to be due them. Some of the judgments have remained unpaid for more than five years, and I am of the opinion that provision should be made for their payment at this session of Congress.

Respectfully,

JAS. E. BOYD,
Acting Attorney-General.

The Honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

