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2-15-1899

Worn-out or obsolete rifles for use in Indian schools. Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior relating to the transfer of certain rifles to the Interior Department.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Doc. No. 239, 55th Cong., 3rd Sess. (1899)

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WORN-OUT OR OBSOLETE RIFLES FOR USE IN INDIAN
SCHOOLS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN RIFLES TO THE
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

FEBRUARY 20, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to
be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 15, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a letter addressed to this Department by the honorable the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 27, 1899, recommending, for reasons stated, that legislation be requested permitting the transfer from the War Department to the Interior Department, upon requisition of the Secretary of the latter Department, such worn-out rifles or rifles of obsolete pattern as may be no longer needed for army purposes, for use in Indian schools in training the pupils in the manual of arms. Draft of an item prepared by the Interior Department to meet the needs of the situation, if embodied in the army bill, is also transmitted herewith.

Favorable action by Congress is recommended.

Very respectfully,

R. A. ALGER,
Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 27, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit a copy of a letter dated the 25th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who recommends that your Department be requested to obtain the necessary legislation by

Congress permitting the transfer to this Department, upon requisition by the Secretary, of such worn-out rifles or rifles of obsolete pattern as may be no longer needed for army purposes, for use in Indian schools in training the pupils in the manual of arms.

Application was made in June last by the superintendent of the Indian school at Flandreau, S. Dak., for fifty rifles for the purpose stated, the superintendent then saying that the "boys are already fairly proficient in marching tactics, and are taking considerable interest in the military drill, and I want them to learn the manual as well;" but, as indicated in the inclosed copy, I was then unwilling to bring the subject to your attention, preferring to let the matter rest until the conditions of the public service and the demands upon your time should be less exacting.

I concur in the recommendation of the Commissioner, and respectfully request, if the same meets with your approval, that there be obtained such legislation as that indicated in the inclosed draft of an item, to be embodied in the army bill, authorizing the transfer of such rifles as have been mentioned for the purpose stated.

Very respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

Item.

To authorize the Secretary of War, in his discretion, to transfer to the Interior Department, upon requisition by the Secretary of the Interior, such worn-out rifles or rifles of obsolete pattern as may be no longer needed for army purposes, the same to be used in training the Indian pupils in the manual of arms, at such Indian training schools as the Secretary of the Interior may deem necessary.

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