

2-13-1838

Report : Mr. White

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1838.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WHITE submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom were referred the petition and papers of David Robb, a citizen of the State of Indiana, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

The committee find the petitioner claims compensation for having traveled from the State of Indiana to the City of Washington, and attending to give evidence before the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, which had under consideration certain Indian treaties, the fairness of which was doubted. Some members of the committee well remember that, in the year 1832, the petitioner did appear before them as a witness, and that the testimony given by him was in their opinion very material in deciding upon the validity of the treaties. No process had been sent or served on the petitioner to compel his attendance, nor is it believed the committee or any member of it made any request that the witness should attend before them, until informed that he was actually in the City of Washington, and that if interrogated, could give useful information upon the subject then under consideration. The petitioner was an agent or sub-agent to the Indians at the time he attended as a witness, and in the receipt of his salary. So far as the committee is informed, his attendance was voluntary; if requested by any person to attend, the committee know not who it was that made such request. He made no claim at that time for any compensation whatever. If he had, the justice of his claim, and the measure of compensation to which he was entitled, could have been examined and decided much more correctly than now, when a new set of men fill the offices where the persons would be most likely found, who could give the necessary information on the subject. Although the committee believe the petitioner was a material witness, yet as his attendance was voluntary, and no claim to compensation made at that time, and he a salaried officer, they ought not to recommend at this time the making any provision by law for his relief.

The petitioner further claims to be reimbursed certain sums which he alleges he advanced for laborers attending a party of Indians which was emigrating to the western side of the Mississippi.

Upon this branch of the petitioners' claim, the committee have not been furnished with any satisfactory evidence to show the authority to employ

those laborers, the actual employment of them, or of any payment made to them.

Upon the whole, the committee recommend for adoption the following resolution :

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

FEBRUARY 13, 1888
S. C. HARRIS, Secy.

Mr. Harris submitted the following

REPORT

The committee on the petition of the State of Indiana, have had the honor to receive and consider the following report :

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