

8-23-1856

Message of the President of the United States,  
relative to the balances remaining in the treasury  
from the last appropriation for the support of the  
army.

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## MESSAGE

OF

### THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RELATIVE TO

*The balances remaining in the treasury from the last appropriation for the support of the army.*

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AUGUST 23, 1856.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Washington, August 21, 1856.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I transmit herewith a letter from the Secretary of War, in relation to the balances remaining in the treasury from the last appropriation for the support of the army.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, August 21, 1856.

SIR: In answer to your enquiry as to the balances remaining in the treasury from the last appropriation for the support of the army, I have the honor to state that the obligations already incurred by the government exceed the sum of those balances by about \$460,000. It may be proper to add that a portion of the balances in the treasury, having been appropriated for specific objects, are not available for the support of the army.

The present strength of the army in regiments is over 13,000 officers and men, more than 12,000 of whom are engaged in active field operations, and in protecting the frontiers against the depredations of hostile Indians, and the small force not thus employed hold the fortifications which cover the commercial cities and salient points most exposed to a sudden descent by a foreign foe. To disband the troops would subject our frontier settlements to the attacks of a formidable savage enemy, and render our fortifications, which it has required years of labor and millions of expenditure to construct, useless for national defence in any sudden emergency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFF'N DAVIS,  
Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT!