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Message of the President of the United States, communicating a report of the Secretary of State, in answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 13th instant, in relation to the absence of Governor Alexander Cumming from the Territory of Colorado since his appointment as Governor.

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MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

A report of the Secretary of State, in answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 13th instant, in relation to the absence of Governor Alexander Cumming from the Territory of Colorado since his appointment as governor.

APRIL 17, 1867.—Read, referred to the Committee on Territories, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

I transmit to the Senate, in answer to their resolution of the 13th instant, a report from the Secretary of State.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1867.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, April 15, 1867.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate of the United States, passed on the 13th of April, 1867, in the following words :
“ *Resolved*, That the President be requested to inform the Senate, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interests, when Alexander Cumming was appointed governor of Colorado Territory; how much of the time the said Cumming has been absent from the Territory since his appointment, and whether by permission or not; and how much of said time absent with permission, and how much without permission, and whether on public duties or not; and whether his salary has been paid to him during his absence or not, and how much has been paid to him as salary for the time he has been absent from the Territory”—has the honor to submit the following report :

On the 28th of January the Senate of the United States passed a resolution requesting the President, at his earliest convenience, “to inform the Senate how often the governors, secretaries, and judges of the several Territories have been absent from their posts of duty in the Territories since their appointments; what part of their time, since the date of their commissions, has been spent in such absence from the Territories; whether their absence has been previously authorized by leave granted in each instance; what was the public necessity for such absence in each case, and for their presence at the national capital, if any of them have been there, or are there at this time; and also whether any part, and if so, how much and what part, of the expenses of their several trips to the seat of government have been charged to the government.”

The resolution last mentioned having been referred to the Secretary of State, he made and submitted to the President a report thereupon, which bears date the 4th of February, 1867, which report was expected to be immediately transmitted to the Senate. The Secretary of State now learns that, owing to the delay which attended a necessary reference of the same last-mentioned resolution to other heads of departments, the report of the Secretary of State was not until very recently communicated to the Senate. The said report of the Secretary of State of the 4th of February contains all the information which is in the possession of this department concerning the matters inquired of in the first-mentioned resolution of the Senate, passed on the 13th of April, instant, except the additional fact, now hereby reported, that a leave of absence to the said Alexander H. Cumming, governor of Colorado, which was granted on the 1st day of December, 1866, has been extended until the 27th day of April, 1867. The reason for that extension was the necessity of his attendance at Washington, in relation to Indian affairs within the Territory of Colorado.

The Secretary of State has no knowledge in regard to the payments of salary which have been made to Governor Cumming.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

The PRESIDENT.