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**Letter of the Secretary of the Interior communicating an estimate of funds required to defray the necessary expenses of a general council of certain Indians in the Indian territory, as provided by treaties with the Cherokees; Creeks, Seminoles, Choetaws, and Chickasaws.**

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LETTER  
OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
COMMUNICATING

*An estimate of funds required to defray the necessary expenses of a general council of certain Indians in the Indian territory, as provided by treaties with the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, and Chickasaws.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., February 9, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 7th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with an estimate of funds required to defray the necessary expenses of the "general council" of certain Indians in the Indian territory, as provided by the twelfth article of the treaty of July 19, 1866, with the Cherokees; the tenth article of the treaty of June 14, 1866, with the Creeks; the seventh article of the treaty of March 21, 1866, with the Seminoles; and the eighth article of the treaty of April 28, 1866, with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, to which the consideration of Congress is respectfully invited.

The amount estimated for the purposes aforesaid is ten thousand dollars.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. COX,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,  
*President of the Senate.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., February 7, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to state that by the twelfth article treaty of July 19, 1866, with the Cherokees, the tenth article treaty of June 14, 1866, with the Creeks, the seventh article treaty of March 21, 1866, with the Seminoles, and the eighth article treaty of April 28, 1866, with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, it is agreed that a general council,

consisting of delegates elected by each nation or tribe, lawfully resident within the Indian territory, may be annually convened in said territory. It is also provided that said council shall consist of one member from each tribe, and an additional member for each one thousand Indians, or each fraction of a thousand greater than five hundred, being members of any tribe lawfully resident in said territory; that no session of such council in any one year shall exceed the term of thirty days; that the members of the council shall be paid by the United States at the rate of four dollars per day, during the time actually in attendance on the sessions of the council, and at the rate of four dollars for every twenty miles necessarily traveled by them in going to and returning therefrom; and that the secretary of the council shall be paid by the United States an annual salary of five hundred dollars.

The following is the number of souls in the tribes or nations hereinbefore named, viz: Creeks, 12,294; Cherokees, 13,566; Choctaws, 12,500; Chickasaws, 4,500; and Seminoles, 2,136. This would make the number of delegates to which each tribe or nation is entitled, as follows: Creeks, thirteen; Cherokees, fifteen; Choctaws, fourteen; Chickasaws, six; and Seminoles three—in all fifty-one.

Some if not all of the delegates to said council have been elected; and it is desired by the Indians that the council should convene at the earliest day practicable. It will be necessary to have funds appropriated to pay the salary and mileage of the members, and also the salary of the secretary, &c., and I have, therefore, caused an estimate of appropriation for that purpose to be prepared, and herewith inclose the same, with the request that it be submitted to Congress for its action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. D. Cox,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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Estimate of funds required to defray the necessary expenses of the "general council" of certain Indians in the Indian territory, as provided by the twelfth article treaty of July 19, 1866, with the Cherokees, the tenth article treaty of June 14, 1866, with the Creeks, the seventh article treaty of March 21, 1866, with the Seminoles, and the eighth article treaty of April 28, 1866, with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871:

For pay of fifty-one members of the general council, provided by the treaties made with the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, and Chickasaws, in 1866, for not to exceed thirty days' attendance for each member, at the rate of four dollars per day, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, or so much thereof as may be necessary.....	\$6, 120
For mileage of fifty-one members of said council, say one hundred and fifty miles each, at the rate of four dollars for every twenty miles traveled, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, or so much thereof as may be necessary....	1, 530

For secretary of said council, for fiscal year ending June 30, 1871 .....	\$500
For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the contingent expenses connected with such council, including the pay of extra clerks, when necessary .....	1,850
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	10,000
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