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Memorial from the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying copy of a memorial from the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians

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MEMORIAL FROM THE WICHITA AND AFFILIATED BANDS
OF INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND ACCOMPANYING COPY OF A MEMORIAL
FROM THE WICHITA AND AFFILIATED BANDS OF INDIANS.

JULY 1, 1897.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 30, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 24th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying copy of a memorial addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives by the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, wherein they pray as follows:

First. That the agreement of 1891, improvidently entered into by petitioners, be modified by act of Congress by increasing the allotments to each Indian to 640 acres of land, and all proceedings had in allotting lands in severalty to petitioners of 160 acres to each Indian be annulled.

Second. That no allotments shall be made and approved upon the Wichita Reservation until the compensation due to petitioners for lands in excess of allotments shall be determined and actually carried to the credit of petitioners upon the books of the Treasury.

Third. That the same tribunal which shall consider and determine the alleged claim of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in and to the lands embraced in petitioners' reservation, shall at the same time consider and determine the compensation to be paid to petitioners for their lands in excess of allotments.

Fourth. That the claims of the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians in and to lands in Louisiana, Texas, and Indian Territory lying outside the boundary of petitioners' present reservation, and all the claims of petitioners of whatsoever name and nature, shall be considered and adjusted by Congress before the reservation now occupied by petitioners shall be allotted in severalty and opened to white settlement.

I also inclose copy of a communication, dated 10th instant, from the agent in charge of the Kiowa, etc., Agency, transmitting the memorial and council proceedings.

Very respectfully,

C. N. BLISS,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, June 24, 1897.

SIR: I am in receipt of a communication from Capt. F. D. Baldwin, acting agent in charge of the Kiowa, etc., Agency, Okla., dated June 10, 1897, in which he states that, at the request of the Wichitas and affiliated bands of Indians, a council was held June 3 and 4, 1897, to consider the question of their taking allotments, at which council a memorial addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives was adopted and signed by some 110 members of the tribe.

I have the honor to transmit herewith two copies each of the memorial, the proceedings of the council, and Captain Baldwin's letter, for transmittal to Congress, or for such other action as you may be pleased to take.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. P. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Kiowa Agency, Anadarko, Okla., June 10, 1897.

SIR: At the request of the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians a council of these tribes was called to meet on Sugar Creek, on the Wichita Reservation, June 3, 1897, to consider the question of their taking allotments, and subsequent action in connection therewith.

I inclose a copy of the proceedings held, also of a petition or memorial addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled. A copy of this petition is retained in the office for file.

In expressing my opinion in regard to this matter I would only be reiterating what I have previously written the Department, in all of which I now fully concur; and in forwarding this paper I most earnestly recommend that it be given the consideration which it deserves.

I believe these people have good ground upon which to base their petition, and can this matter be once settled and a positive date, or approximately so, established when their country shall be opened, so that they may in the meantime rest easy and have nothing to think of or worry them except the preparing for the event, much more rapid progress can be made than can be with the conditions as they are at present.

They are absolutely unfitted, as they now are, to meet the requirements of civilization that will be entailed upon them by the opening of their reservation.

Very respectfully,

FRANK D. BALDWIN,
Captain, Fifth Infantry, Acting Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

MEMORIAL OF THE WICHITA AND AFFILIATED BANDS OF INDIANS
To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

Your petitioners, the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, respectfully represent as follows:

The Wichita Indians and their affiliates are now, and, from a time

whereof the traditions of the said Indians runneth not to the contrary, have been the occupants of the soil in and about the Wichita Mountains and the country lying between the Crosstimbers and Antelope Hills and the Canadian and Red rivers; they having been found within the said territory by the earliest white explorers, as disclosed by the authentic narratives of such explorers, as early as the year 1719 at least.

The original right of occupancy of petitioners in the described territory has never been canceled by the United States.

The petitioners have ever been peacefully disposed toward the Government of the United States and the citizens thereof, and have on many occasions assisted the United States in dealing with the wild and hostile tribes of the plains.

Petitioners were primarily a nonnomadic and agricultural people, and were self-supporting when first known to the whites and remained self-supporting for a long time thereafter.

Without petitioner's knowledge or consent the primal habitat of petitioners was, in 1818, nominally ceded to the United States by the Quapaw Indians, a small tribe residing on the Arkansas River, many hundreds of miles east of the Territory actually occupied by petitioners, and by treaty of October 18, 1820, between the United States and the Choctaw Indians, the said Territory was ceded by the United States to the Indians last named; subsequently, in 1855, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians leased the said Territory to the United States, and in 1866 followed said lease by solemnly ceding the same to the United States.

It is not deemed necessary to set out in this petition the incidents whereby the Chickasaws became interested with the Choctaws in the indicated Territory.

In the meantime, about the year 1859, those of petitioners then within the said Territory, along with others of their affiliates then in Texas, were given a tract of country between the Canadian and Wichita rivers, extending, as petitioners then understood, from about the eastern line of their present reservation westwardly to the Antelope Hills, being beyond the western boundary of the present Territory of Oklahoma. Subsequently, by Executive action, the details whereof your petitioners have no knowledge, a reservation of very much less extent than petitioners understood to be intended for their permanent home, was set apart for them, which reservation they now occupy, being now described as follows:

Commencing at a point in the middle of the main channel of the Washita River, where the ninety-eighth meridian of west longitude crosses the same, thence up the middle of the main channel of said river to the line of $98^{\circ} 40'$ west longitude, thence on said line of $98^{\circ} 40'$ due north to the middle of the channel of the main Canadian River, thence down the middle of said main Canadian River, to where it crosses the ninety-eighth meridian, thence due south to the place of beginning.

The above bounden territory first received official sanction from an unratified agreement between Commissioner of Indian Affairs Francis Walker and certain members of the Wichita, Caddo, Towaconie, Waco, and Keechie Indians, entered into at Washington, D. C., October 19, 1892, and in consideration of the Indians being given said territory the said Indians ceded and relinquished to the United States all right, title, and interest in and to any lands in Texas, Louisiana, Indian Territory, or elsewhere within the United States. But, be it remembered, the said relinquishment, by the said Indians acting for their tribe, was without authority of the tribe, and that the said agreement has never been ratified by the Congress of the United States; so that the consideration upon which the nominal cession by these petitioners of their prestive habitat wholly failed.

In March, 1890, the Choctaws and Chickasaws, for the first time since their cession of the named territory to the United States, in 1866, set up a claim to part of the said territory, namely, that part of a reservation set apart to the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians lying south of the Canadian River, on the ground that the cession by the Choctaws and Chickasaws in 1866, to the United States, was, in fact, a cession accompanied by an implied trust on the part of the United States to perpetually use the ceded territory for Indian occupancy; and when such occupancy ceased, and the country became opened to white settlement, the right of occupancy and compensation therefor reverted to them, the Choctaws and Chickasaws; wherefore they demanded pay, and actually received a large sum of money from the United States in recognition of their alleged right. This concession, on the part of the United States, affected the rights of petitioners in and to the reservation occupied by them, because petitioner's reservation is within the territory ceded by the Choctaws and Chickasaws to the United States in 1866.

Now, in 1891, these petitioners believing Congress would, without delay, pay them for their lands in excess of allotments and adjust their other claims against the United States, and being wholly ignorant of the nature of the claim or demand of the Choctaws and the Chickasaws in and to their lands, and not having a clear conception of the desires or aims of the executive officers of the United States, but confiding in the Government like affectionate children in a parent whose wisdom and good faith was not doubted, and having most prominent in their minds a desire to comply with any request made to them by representatives of the United States, entered into an agreement to accept allotments of 160 acres each, upon their reservation now occupied by them, and to submit their claim for compensation for lands in excess of said allotments to the Congress of the United States and to abide by the decision of Congress respecting the same.

This agreement was most improvidently entered into on the part of petitioners, and was not understood by petitioners in this, that, petitioners had no knowledge of the nature of the claim of the Choctaws and Chickasaws, nor had petitioners any accurate appreciation of the quantity of land embraced in an area of 160 acres. Petitioners were, therefore, misled by their ignorance, to their great injury, in surrendering and ceding to the United States the reservation then in their actual possession for and in consideration of the proposed allotments and such uncertain award as Congress might choose to make to them for the lands in excess of such allotments.

Petitioners were wholly ignorant of the effect of said agreement, nor could they be informed of its effect or anticipate it, because their interests were menaced by the claims and demands of another people (the Choctaws and Chickasaws), whereof petitioners were wholly in the dark.

It afterwards transpired that Congress ratified said agreement in 1895, and referred the claim of the Choctaws and Chickasaws, in and to the lands occupied by petitioners, to the Court of Claims, with authority on the part of the Choctaws and Chickasaws to bring an action in that court against petitioners and the United States. Such action was brought and is now pending in said court; but the act of 1895 also empowered the Choctaws and Chickasaws to negotiate with the Five Civilized Commissioners respecting the same subject-matter, and upon such negotiation, by consent of the Secretary of the Interior

and the Attorney-General, to suspend said action in the Court of Claims. In pursuance of the last-named authority the Choctaws and Chickasaws have negotiated with the Five Civilized Tribes Commission, referring all claims against the United States, including that set forth in said suit, to the Senate of the United States, as an arbitrator; this by agreement of April 18, 1897. The act of 1895 also provides that the reservation of petitioners shall be open to settlement within one year from the date of the allotments, and allotments are now being made upon petitioners' reservation.

If, therefore, the agreement between the Choctaws and Chickasaws of April 18, 1897, shall be ratified and the pending suit suspended, as the said agreement contemplates, petitioners will be without a tribunal to hear and determine their right to compensation in and to the lands in excess of allotments, and if said allotments shall be allowed to proceed to completion, they will be left with nothing but a naked and inchoate claim against the United States for compensation for their excess lands, a condition of affairs they did not and could not foresee at the time of the agreement of 1891.

Further, the reservation of petitioners is not adapted to agricultural purposes, except to a very limited area thereof. It is essentially a grazing country, and petitioners can not hope to make a living upon the land by agricultural pursuits; they can reasonably hope to become self-supporting if enabled to pursue grazing, the industry to which their land is adapted. But experience hath fully demonstrated that grazing can not be made supportive of an ordinary family if attempted to be pursued upon 160 acres of land such as is mainly found upon the Wichita Reservation. More land to each Indian is absolutely essential to rendering your petitioners self-supporting, and not less than 640 acres to each Indian will be adequate to give petitioners fairly profitable grazing farms. If petitioners shall be allowed to take allotments of 640 acres each, with a view to the pursuit of grazing, the only industry to which the lands constituting their reservation is adapted, they may reasonably hope to support themselves and families and become useful citizens of the United States.

Wherefore, in view of the facts herein set forth, your petitioners pray as follows:

First. That the agreement of 1891, improvidently entered into by petitioners, be modified by act of Congress, by increasing the allotments to each Indian to 640 acres of land, and all proceedings had in allotting lands in severalty to petitioners of 160 acres to each Indian be annulled.

Second. That no allotments shall be made and approved upon the Wichita Reservation until the compensation due to petitioners for lands in excess of allotments shall be determined and actually carried to the credit of petitioners upon the books of the Treasury.

Third. That the same tribunal which shall consider and determine the alleged claim of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in and to the lands embraced in petitioners' reservation, shall, at the same time, consider and determine the compensation to be paid to petitioners for their lands in excess of allotments.

Fourth. That the claim of the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians in and to lands in Louisiana, Texas, and Indian Territory, lying outside of the boundary of petitioners' present reservation, and all claims of petitioners of whatsoever name and nature, shall be considered and adjusted by Congress before the reservation now occupied

by petitioners shall be allotted in severalty and opened to white settlement.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Name.	Marks.	Witness.	Name.	Marks.	Witness.
Caddo Jake, chief of Caddos.	x	D. H. Kelsey.	Ralph Cleveland		D. H. Kelsey.
White Bread, second chief of Caddos.	x	Do.	Burgess Hunt		Do.
Nar ees ta, second chief of Wichitas.	x	Do.	Henry Inkanish		Do.
Jim Bob, chief of Delawares.	x	Do.	James Inkanish		Do.
Stevenson, Wichita headman.	x	Do.	Robert William Dunlap		Do.
To wac o nie Jim, Wichita chief.	x	Do.	Johnson Lane		Do.
Ka kats ko caddy ah	x	Do.	Jasper Exendine		Do.
Waks quats, Waco chief.	x	Do.	Sam Weller		Do.
Kar noos ta	x	Do.	Charlie Adams		Do.
Sa koon nok, Kechie chief.	x	Do.	Simon Beaver		Do.
A to i oks	x	Do.	Robert Coffee		Do.
George Parton	x	Do.	Joshua Long Hat		Do.
James	x	Do.	Victor Hugo		Do.
John Kennedy	x	Do.	Louis Bedoko		Do.
Ka ha wah	x	Do.	Charlie Parton		Do.
Ca do ah	x	Do.	Willie Sturm		Do.
Johnson Parton	x	Do.	Charlie Caddo		Do.
Joe Poole	x	Do.	Reuben Caddo		Do.
Frank Everett		Do.	Lewis Connor		Do.
Ke we dees	x	Do.	James Spybuck		Do.
Tiddy kits	x	Do.	Grant Williams		Do.
Johnathan Richard	x	Do.	Howard Kino		Do.
Sho e ta	x	Do.	Hos te ah	x	Do.
Squirrel	x	Do.	Ok kid ah wodish	x	Do.
John Tatum		Do.	Hugh Collins	x	Do.
Isaac	x	Do.	Horace Everett	x	Do.
Na i da chit	x	Do.	Johnson	x	Do.
Kiddy a dah	x	Do.	Phillip Walker	x	Do.
Caddo Dick	x	Do.	Yellow Bird	x	Do.
Wild Horse	x	Do.	Sam Parton	x	Do.
Shi none	x	Do.	Jim Dunlap	x	Do.
Grasshopper	x	Do.	Jim Ellis	x	Do.
Ick koks	x	Do.	Frank Parton	x	Do.
Kechi John	x	Do.	Paul	x	Do.
Ka ha kits kah	x	Do.	Jesse Caddo	x	Do.
Big Tree	x	Do.	Chicken	x	Do.
Sam Shick	x	Do.	Hortie Stevens		Do.
Charley	x	Do.	Walter Ross		Do.
Homer Segar		Do.	Te addy oot	x	Do.
Alfred Standing		Do.	Che was tok	x	Do.
Ots ke os kun ui chuck	x	Do.	Billy Bow legs	x	Do.
Tiddy wats	x	Do.	John Do ho	x	Do.
Orie Griffin		Do.	Ke ha ota	x	Do.
Sho toe way	x	Do.	Frank Williams	x	Do.
Te win nun	x	Do.	Grover	x	Do.
Wa hats sud ish	x	Do.	Joe Hi ni	x	Do.
Fred Carruth		Do.	Willie	x	Do.
Julius	x	Do.	Joe Edmund	x	Do.
Billy Wilson	x	Do.	Strong Man	x	Do.
Billy Beans	x	Do.	Brown Hog	x	Do.
Frank Howard	x	Do.	Thomas	x	Do.
Im mat sah	x	Do.	Thomas Williams	x	Do.
			Bill Pader	x	Do.
			Nicolas	x	Do.
			Be an no	x	Do.
			Aleck Johnson	x	Do.
			Sha ter	x	Do.

At a council of the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, regularly called and held according to the customs of said tribe, upon the reservation of said tribe, on the 3d and 4th days of June, A. D. 1897, the said council being presided over by To wac o nie Jim (Wichita), and D. H. Kelsey being the secretary thereof, the following proceedings were had:

Resolved by the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians in council assembled, That the said Indians do most earnestly protest against the allotment of their lands in severalty until the compensation to be paid to them for lands in excess of their allotments shall be determined and paid; that, owing to the claim of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians to the lands occupied by the Wichitas and affiliated bands, a condition of affairs has arisen not anticipated at the time of the agreement of 1891 between the United States and these Indians, under which it is proposed to make allotments in severalty, whereby these Indians are surprised and for which they are wholly unprepared; and they regard the enforcement of the agreement of 1891 in

the matter of allotments, with a view to opening their reservation to white settlement, as an act of oppression which, if accomplished, will strip them of their possessory right in and to lands in excess of allotments and leave them nothing therefor except a naked and incoherent claim against the Government of the United States; that no exigency exists calling for the immediate allotment of their lands in severalty and the opening of their reservation to white settlement, and that such a course will result in irreparable injury to these Indians, in that it will work the surrender of their rights never intended to be surrendered without just compensation; that having been misled respecting the actual area of 160 acres of land at the time of the agreement of 1891, when they assented to allotments of that size, and, finding by experience that because their lands are mainly adapted to grazing purposes and not to agriculture they can not hope to ever become self-supporting upon allotments of an area insufficient for the purposes of grazing, they protest against such allotments and ask that the law be so modified that allotments be made to them, when made, of not less than 640 acres to each Indian, to the end that they may be afforded an opportunity to make a livelihood in pursuit of the occupation of cattle raising, to which their country is adapted, and be saved from becoming paupers and social and political outcasts.

Be it further resolved, That the agent of these Indians be, and he is hereby, requested to forward these proceedings and the memorial hereto attached to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the purpose that the same may be laid before the Congress of the United States through the honorable the Secretary of the Interior.

Witness to mark: D. H. KELSEY.

TO WAC O NIE JIM (his x mark),
President of the council.
 D. H. KELSEY, *Secretary.*

Witnesses:

ROBERT WM. DUNLAP.
 JOHNSON LANE.
 JAMES INKANISH.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

KIOWA AGENCY, OKLA., *June 3 and 4, 1897.*

At the request of the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, a council of said Indians was held near Sugar Creek, on the Wichita Reservation, Okla., commencing June 3, 1897, and ending June 4, 1897, by Capt. Frank D. Baldwin, U. S. A., acting Indian agent, Kiowa Agency, Okla., there being present Mr. W. P. Coleman and Mr. George A. H. Mills, United States allotting agents, the proceedings of which council are as follows:

Interpreters: Johnson Lane, Wichita; Robert Wm. Dunlap, Caddo; Jasper Exendine, Delaware.

The AGENT. This is intended to be a formal council, called for the consideration of important matters, in which you are all very deeply interested. As the proceedings and all the talk that is made here will be a matter of record and will be sent to Washington, it will be necessary for you to have a chairman of this meeting, or president.

To wac o nie Jim, after being duly nominated, was elected chairman, and I appoint Mr. Kelsey, the stenographer, your secretary.

Now, tell them that I am going to appoint Robert Wm. Dunlap, interpreter for the Caddos, Johnson Lane interpreter for the Wichitas, and Jasper Exendine, interpreter for the Delawares; if anyone has any objections to these men acting as interpreters, let them say so.

(The three interpreters named, sworn by the acting agent.)

Tell these people that this council is called by their request and upon the recommendation of their attorney, Mr. Vale, in Washington. Tell them that the Government has not authorized me to hold any communication in the way of a council with you people.

I have received my orders from the Government over two months ago as to what I must do in connection with the matters which have come to you for consideration, or which you will bring before me, as the representative of the Government, for consideration. At our last council, which was held just above here on this same creek on the 23d and 24th of March, I fully and carefully explained to you what my orders were. At that time I fully advised you as to what, in my judgment, was the only thing left for you to do. Whether that advice was as good or whether it was fully in accord with what you have been advised since by the highest officials of the Government, you are fully informed through the two representatives which you sent to Washington a short time ago to confer with those officials, To wac o nie Jim and Robert Dunlap.

I have carefully questioned these two people of your own tribes as to whether they have told you exactly what the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Commissioner, told them. They, having done so, you see that I told you exactly as they have told you. That being the case, you know exactly what road you have got to follow. I want to impress on you, and I hope you will think of it, that no Government official, working under the orders of the President of the United States, as we all do, has any recourse except to do as he is ordered to do. This is not only required of Government officials, but is required of every citizen of the United States, white people, negroes, and everybody else. They have got to comply with the laws of the United States. This is exactly the condition we find ourselves here to-day. There has been a certain law enacted which is very repulsive, and you think, and your friends feel, that it is going to act and cause a great injustice to you, but however great the hardships that this law may cause, it must be complied with and obeyed. On your part the responsibility of obeying the law is just as great and greater than on our part to enforce that law. This is exactly the advice To wac o nie Jim and Robert Dunlap received in Washington from the highest officials of the Government. The President of the United States has sent Mr. Coleman and Mr. Mills here as his representatives to see that this law is executed. Beyond my orders, which are to assist these gentlemen in every way that I can and as your agent and your friend to protect and advise you in the best course to pursue, I have nothing whatever to do with the allotting of these lands. Both of these duties are forced upon me; that is, I am compelled to do them if I do my duty, the latter one, that is, to advise and to protect you in your interests, is a great pleasure, where I see that my advice and efforts to protect you are appreciated.

Mr. Vale, your attorney, has sent through your representatives, who were in Washington, a petition, which, if you all agree to, you are to sign; during the afternoon this petition will be read to you and interpreted so that you will thoroughly understand it, all of you.

I have also a letter from your attorney, Mr. Vale, in which he asks me to call a council of your people that you may consider this petition; this will also be read and interpreted to you so that you will all understand fully what he says. I have seen a copy of the talk that was made between the Secretary of the Interior and To wac o nie Jim and Robert Dunlap; that paper with consent of Mr. Coleman will be read to you and interpreted fully, so that you will all know what these representatives of yours said to the Secretary and the Secretary said to them.

I want to say, again, that none of these papers have come to me officially from the Department, therefore the council is your own; whatever you do I will simply indorse and send to the Department, with such remarks and recommendations as I may see fit to make for your best interests. The first orders I received in connection with this matter have not been revoked or modified; they stand exactly as they were received two months ago. The orders of Mr. Coleman and Mr. Mills, the allotting agents, have not been changed; but they have been reiterated, that is, they have been repeated again—that they must comply with those orders—and however hard or however unjust you may think the carrying out of these instructions and the complying with the law is, there is but one course and one means for you to pursue. Now, I have stated to you as plainly and as straight as I can the facts, based upon law, and you are individually and collectively responsible for that law having been passed. There has been a way pointed out which by following you may be able to make matters a great deal easier, that is, to do away to a great extent with the law as it stands to-day. Your attorney says, in his letter, sign this petition, and by doing that you will see, when the petition is read, what it provides for, what is asked for; and the Secretary says when this petition comes to him, signed by your people, he will send your prayer, or your petition, to the Congress of the United States, asking that it be granted. I have read the petition very carefully, and there is nothing in it but what is for your good and for your benefit, and I honestly believe should be granted for these reasons, and I shall earnestly urge and indorse it.

I understand there is a division, that is, the people of one part of the reservation pulling away from this part over here; the first I heard of it was this morning, and that that is the reason there is no larger representation here, fearing that as they believed To wac o nie Jim and Robert Dunlap had gone to Washington to sell them out; that party unbeknown to the agent sent a second delegation to Washington and they have not been received with any consideration since they have been there, at all—the Department or the officials; they pay no attention to their talk. When you all selected these two men to go to Washington as your representatives I took that for granted that all your people had confidence in them; I had confidence in them and I indorsed their application to go in that way; that they were representatives of your people; that they were going to Washington to talk in your interest; therefore when in Washington they received kind treatment and kind talk and good advice. We are glad to see the chiefs and head men of the people here to-day,

because it is a time that we are deeply interested in your people, and I believe that after you have heard and listened to the talk of your representatives from Washington, that you will see that it is best to follow out the advice given them without any more talk or controversy.

Fearing that you may have misunderstood the words of the Secretary as conveyed to you by To wac o nie Jim and Robert Dunlap, I will read to you just what the Secretary did say in regard to you taking your allotments. The Secretary says: "I want you to explain to those men my opinion in this matter. It is my opinion that they should assist the Government in the plan that is now proposed to them of taking their allotments; it is not necessary that the allotments should be absolutely complete at the moment, but when you take your allotments you are sure of that in any event; my recommendations to you as Secretary of the Interior is that you accept this proposition that is made to you and let these Commissioners go on and make your allotments, leaving the matter for settlement for the rest of it to Congress, under the advice of this Department."

I will read in connection with this same matter an extract from a letter from Mr. Vale, your attorney in Washington. He says: "The situation seems so grave to me from a purely legal standpoint, that while advising the acceptance of allotments, I deem it important in view of all the facts that a formal protest be entered by the Indians to the proceedings at this time, and that Congress be petitioned by them in the most formal and forcible manner."

Whereupon the letter of Mr. Vale, attorney, was read and interpreted; also the petition referred to, which was prepared by Mr. Vale for the Indians to sign.

Tell them that they have heard read all the papers that I have to read to them; they have heard about all I have to say to them, and I think the matter has been very fully and thoroughly explained, but whether they thoroughly understand it or not is a different thing.

The following letter received from the Secretary of the Interior by Mr. Mills, allotting agent, was read and interpreted to the Indians:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 13, 1897.

SIR: Having completed the duties for which you were authorized to come to this city, you will return to the Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita Agency, Okla., and resume the work of making allotments to the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, as directed in the letter of instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated March 2, 1897.

Very respectfully,

G. N. BLISS,
Secretary.

GEORGE A. H. MILLS,
United States Allotting Agent, Washington, D. C.

Council adjourned until 2 p. m., June 4, 1897.

At 2 p. m., June 4, 1897, the council, having been called by the chairman, was preceded with, all being present as on June 3, 1897.

Having had opportunity to talk among themselves, Indians were asked if they were ready to sign the petition prepared by Attorney Vale. Having stated they were, said petition was signed by all present.

TO WAC O NIE JIM, chief of Wichitas: He says that this man here, Daniel High, has a little Indian blood of some kind in him, and he would like to have him and one of his children adopted; he says this man has been here on the reservation about five years; he says the time when he got here he show us a paper, and he says that he has never received anything, no land anywhere else, so he says that is the way I know this man here, and therefore I want him to be adopted and to become a Wichita.

He says that I know John Hansell; he has been here about five years with us; he has been among the Cheyennes, and worked there for Government, and he has been around there for several years; he has never received any land anywhere; he is a full-blooded Pete River (Digger) California Indian, and is now a Government blacksmith with us at our issue station, so I want him to be adopted and become a member of our tribes; also his brother, Willie Hansell, and sister, Ellen Hansell; they have lived here, too, and I want them to be adopted.

He says the oldest one is at work with us, and is always kind to us, and has been here a long time, and I want him to become a member of the Caddos, and the other two—his sister and brother—also.

The SECRETARY: Now tell them that all that want to adopt Daniel High and his daughter, Christina High, will stand on your feet; all that want to vote against him remain sitting.

Thirty-nine (39) voted in favor of Mr. High and his daughter.

Thirty-nine (39) voted against the adoption.

Another vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Fifty-three (53) voted in favor of, and

Forty-nine (49) voted against.

Now all in favor of John Hansell, his brother and sister—three of them—stand up ;
all against him remain sitting.

Unanimously adopted.

Whereupon the council was adjourned.

Signed for and in behalf of their people:

Attest:

D. H. Kelsey.

TO WAC O NIE JIM (his x mark),
Chairman, and Chief of Wichitas.

D. H. Kelsey.

NAR EAS TA (his x mark),
Second Chief of Wichitas.

D. H. Kelsey.

CADDO JAKE (his x mark),
Chief of the Caddos.

D. H. Kelsey.

WHITE BREAD (his x mark),
Second Chief of Caddos.

D. H. Kelsey.

JIM BOB (his x mark),
Chief of the Delawares.

We, Robert Wm. Dunlap, Caddo; Johnson Lane, Wichita, and Jasper Exendine, Delaware, hereby certify on honor that we have interpreted in our different languages, respectively, the above proceedings correctly, and that the above is a correct transcript of said proceedings.

ROBERT WM. DUNLAP.
JASPER EXENDINE.
JOHNSON LANE.

I, D. H. Kelsey, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true, correct, and complete report of all proceedings had and held at a council with the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, on Sugar Creek, Wichita Reservation, commencing June 3 and ending June 4, 1897.

D. H. KELSEY,
Official Agency Stenographer and Council Secretary.

I, Capt. Frank D. Baldwin, U. S. A., acting Indian agent, Kiowa Agency, Okla., certify on honor that the above and foregoing is a true, correct, and complete report of all proceedings had and held at the council as described hereinbefore.

FRANK D. BALDWIN,
Captain, Fifth Infantry, Acting Agent.

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