

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*Correspondence in relation to Indian Affairs, required by a resolution of the House of Representatives, of 23d January, 1835, as can be furnished by the War Department; also a report from the Treasury Department on the same subject.*

FEBRUARY 11, 1836.

Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

WASHINGTON, *February 10, 1836.*

*To the House of Representatives :*

I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of War, with copies of so much of the correspondence relating to Indian affairs, called for by the resolution of the House of January 23, 1835, as can be furnished by that Department. I transmit also a report on the same subject from the Treasury Department, from which it appears that, without a special appropriation, or the suspension, for a considerable period, of much of the urgent and current business of the General Land Office, it is impracticable to take copies of all the papers described in the resolution. Under these circumstances the subject is again respectfully submitted to the consideration of the House of Representatives.

ANDREW JACKSON.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 10, 1836:*

SIR: In obedience to your direction, I have the honor to lay before you a report of the Indian bureau, with copies of the correspondence in this Department relating to Indian affairs, called for by the resolution of the House of Representatives of January 23, 1835.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

LEW. CASS.

To the PRESIDENT  
of the United States.

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
February 9, 1835

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of all letters and correspondence of all Indian agents, sub-agents and other persons connected with, or relating to, the survey, location, sale and transfer of all Indian reserves of land east of the Mississippi, since the year 1825; also all orders and communications in reference to said surveys, locations, sales and transfers of Indian reserves, not already communicated to the Senate under resolutions of that body; being all that this office can furnish, and which the President of the United States was requested to transmit to the House of Representatives, by their resolution of 23d January, 1835.

The registers of locations, under the Choctaw treaty of 1830, which form a part of these documents, have not been submitted to the President for his approval.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ELBERT HERRING.

HON. LEWIS CASS,  
*Secretary of War.*

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, July 1, 1835.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the enclosed copy of resolution of the House of Representatives, passed on the 23d of January last, calling on the President to furnish copies of all correspondence and documents connected with, or relating to, the survey, location, sale, and transfer of all Indian reserves of land east of the Mississippi, since the year 1825.

It is absolutely impracticable to estimate the amount of labor involved in the execution of the resolution, and the preliminary labor of searching out the letters from and to individuals and public agents, having reference to the subject thereof.

In order to convey some tolerably accurate idea of the labor to be performed, it is my purpose to advise yourself and the President of what has been ascertained.

	Pages 4to post.
1st. To be copied, volumes 1 and 2 of Indian conveyances, equal to pages of quarto post	531
2d. To be copied, letters written since 1st January, 1833, the period when the Indian business was made to form a separate letter book	459
To be copied, the enclosures in said letters, which would amount to at least as much, and probably more	454
3d. Bundles of detached papers, amounting to	1,549
Aggregate	2,993

To be sought out and copied—The letters *from individuals* on the subject of Indian reservations prior to 1833, are bound up with the mass of correspondence of the office, alphabetically, and in the order of their dates. To select them for copying, will require the careful perusal of those letter books, consisting of seventy-six foolscap and quarto volumes. Neither the time required in making such elaborate investigations, nor the mechanical labor of copying the letters, can be estimated.

To be sought out and copied.—The letters addressed to individuals on the subject of Indian reservations. Search to be made among twenty-four folio volumes of letter books. Labor cannot be estimated.

Diagrams and plats.—It has been ascertained that *five hundred and eighty-two* plats or diagrams of individual reservations will have to be copied. Estimate of time occupied in so doing at least six months.

Not having the abstracts of the locations under the *Choctaw, Creek, and Chickasaw* cessions, it is impossible to estimate the extent of the labor involved in these respective branches of the subject. The reservations in those cessions must certainly amount to a great many thousands; and one item of the labor involved in them, so far as the office possesses any means of forming a conjecture, in the absence of the official of the reservations, will be the copying of *eight hundred and six* plats of townships and fractional townships, and designating the reservations thereon, which, at a low estimate, would occupy one draughtsman *two years* constantly.

If the labor of making the searches in the letter books, perusing documents in order to discriminate what is to be copied, the subsequent copying of the letters and documents, and the copying of plats and diagrams, and the subsequent arrangement of them according to the respective claims, could be equally divided among *all the clerks* of this office, it is estimated that it would require the suspension of *every other duty*, for four months, or probably half a year.

As it was certainly not the intention of the House of Representatives, in passing this resolution, to interfere with the execution of all the existing laws of the , bearing on the current duties of the office, I conceive it my duty not to move in the business without your positive instructions to that effect.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. M. MOORE,

*Acting Comm'r.*

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

The Secretary of the Treasury has the honor to report to the President, that he places entire confidence in the within statements from the acting Commissioner of the Land office that the pressure of business of a current character is well known to be very great in that office; and that no contingent fund is at its disposal for additional clerk hire, which is not now devoted to the performance of that kind of business.

Under these circumstances, as the labor which would be performed on the resolution, in that office, is probably so much larger than Congress antici-

ated, and as so little of it could be accomplished without a special appropriation, or the abandonment of most of the urgent and current duties of the clerks, the Secretary of the Treasury is of opinion that it is better to submit these facts to Congress, and take upon them its further direction; and, in the mean time, that no further action be had on the resolution in the Land Office, except to copy any particular papers, or class of papers, which the Treasury Department may designate as especially necessary to aid in completing a report on any particular part of the whole resolution, and which copying may not be so extensive as very materially to interrupt and delay the ordinary and indispensable business of the Land Office.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *July 3, 1835.*