

action was taken in the matter. The council of administration is willing to nominate him again if considered necessary, and it is the wish of all the officers at this post, with probably one exception, that in view of the satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the duties of Sutler that he be permitted to act as such until the Secretary of War has taken some action in the matter.

The efforts of Mr. Johnson to supplant Mr. Tappan are not only unjust to Mr. Tappan, but are diametrically opposed to the wishes of the officers of this Post. And however they may effect Mr. Tappan must necessarily result in injury to himself and to a depreciation of the good opinion which the officers have hitherto of him. I have consulted the feelings of the officers in this respect, and the avowed intention of Mr. Johnson appears already to have produced coldness and distrust. I have no objection to Mr. Johnson personally, nor do I object to his trading, but I deem it my duty to protect Mr. Tappan from any unjust attempts to do him injury--the motives for which on the part of Mr. Johnson, can only be attributed to a desire on his part, to enhance the value of his Tradership.

I earnestly in view of these facts request to be allowed to continue Mr. Tappan in his present position until some action be taken by the Secretary of War.

(Signed)

I am very Respectfully
Your obt. Servant
W. Douglas
Major U. S. Infantry
Commanding Post

Head Qrs. Fort Dodge, Kansas
March 24, 1868

Bvt Brig Gen. Chauncey McKeever
A. A. A. General Dept of the Mo.
(Thro. Dist Hd. Qrs)

General

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Gen Sheridan's letter