

disapproving of my action in the case of Mr. Johnson and Company Traders and I respectfully request that this following statement be submitted to the Com'dg general in justification of my action in the premises.

After carefully reading the order referred to , I could place no other construction upon it that such as induced my action. And I placed the most liberal construction upon it. I was not then aware that Mr. Johnson had visited the Commanding General of the Dept. with the intention (as he stated me) of ousting Mr. Tappan from his present position. Mr. Johnson called upon one with reference to my action in his case, and stated to the effect that the order March 3rd could not be intended to affect him as he was the one who instigated the issue of it, and it was with the view to displace Mr. Tappan from his position the wording of the order was as follows: " The Major General Commanding instructs me to say that no Sutler or Trader, will be permitted to remain on the Military Reserve at Fort Dodge, unless he holds an appointment or warrant in his own name from the proper authority, which in the case of a Sutler is the "Secretary of War" as Mr. Johnson was not trading in his own name, and in fact had no good in his own right to sell, I naturally inferred that his partners who did the trading under the firm of Johnson and Co. came within the preview of the order. I arrived at the same conclusion with regard to the Sutler; I have just received a corrected copy of March 3rd from your office, which considerably modifies the original upon which my action was based. The intention of the Comdg General is made clear by this letter and I have notified the firm of "Johnson and Co." that they are permitted to trade under that Co partnership. I herewith enclose original copy of letter of March 3rd from your office.

(Signed)

I am very Respectfully your
 obt. Servant
 W. Douglas
 Major U.S. Inf.
 Comdg. Post