

Okmulgee, I. T. March, 26th, 1897.

To The Hon.

The House of Warriors:

Gentlemen:--

On the 25th inst. your special <sup>joint</sup> committee rendered to you their report and recommendations respecting \$333,000.00 which from current report, it is believed will be appropriated in favor of the Creek Nation by the Congress of the U. S. now in session: That report has been returned to the committee without any indication of the desires of the House relative to it. It is stated by members of the committee however, that you desire a definite <sup>and specific</sup> act of acceptance of the money to be appropriated, <sup>be made</sup> so that the same may be drawn out and at once applied to the payment of the public debt.

The desire to pay one's just debts is an impulse of the spirit of justice and right on which rests our National honor and credit, and your committee are in full favor and sympathy with your wishes in this regard. In the present case however, your committee has made careful inquiry and cannot find as yet anywhere the amount of \$333,000.00 actually placed to the credit of the Nation, and is therefore of the opinion that it is not prudent to attempt legislation with respect to a matter not yet known to be a fact. The appropriation bill embracing the item covering the above mentioned amount, is generally recognized to be the most hurtful legislation for the Indians that has ever occurred for many long years. If passed and approved, it sounds the death-knell of the autonomy of ours, and that of the other Nations of the Territory.

And should we now pass an act of acceptance of it or any portion of it, and that too even before Congress has yet made it a law we fear such an act might appear to place our Nation in the attitude of having, with zeal and alacrity, indorsed a movement known to be repugnant to every impulse and sentiment of the Indian character. As to how soon

this bill will pass and become a law, we have as yet no means of knowing; it may be pending in the Senate where it now is, for weeks. The United States has a new President as well as many new members in Congress.

It is possible that the Indians may fare better at the hands of the new President and members than they did in the last administration, and like a drowning man who clutches at a floating straw in the hope of saving his life, we are of the opinion that the little time and opportunity yet left <sup>to</sup> us should be employed in the endeavor to cause the Senate to eliminate from the bill now before it the item which abolishes our civil and criminal courts. We believe also that should the bill become a law against our treaties and protests, then arrangements should be made with the proper departments of the government to accept the funds appropriated, and to have any surplus that might remain after payment of our debts placed where the Nation can have control of it to be used and disposed of in accordance with the act of Congress.

Your committee are of the further opinion that if the bill is passed and the government's disbursing officer comes to make payment, some arrangements should be made with the Secretary of the Interior whereby either our Treasurer or some <sup>person or persons</sup> appointed ~~by~~ by the Chief on behalf of the Nation shall be present with such disbursing officer aid in the identification and rejection of spurious or fraudulent warrants that might be presented as evidence of so much of the Nation's indebtedness. ~~For these reasons we decline to recommend specifically~~. We believe also that the payment should be made at the Capitol. For these reasons we decline to recommend specifically any act at this time of acceptance of the expected action of Congress in our behalf touching the appropriation before referred to. If, as we believe, the foregoing arrangements are necessary, then it seems clearly to follow that you should have persons to represent you at Washington, D. C. to propose and perfect them. We therefore recommend that G. W. Grayson, one of our

present delegates who are still in office until the first of April next, accompanied by the Principal Chief, Isparhecher, be recommissioned and authorized to serve as National delegates for the period of sixty (60) days from the first of April next, and that they be charged with the duties herein before indicated; that the usual per diem of \$7.00, and traveling and incidental expenses funds of two hundred dollars each, and \$500.00 respectively be appropriated <sup>and furnished</sup> to them at once in cash, and that they be instructed and directed to repair to their post of duty with the least possible delay. In order to carry out the objects indicated we further recommend the adoption of the accompanying draft of an act for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

March Thompson.

Chairman of  
Special Joint  
Committee.

G. W. Grayson,

Clk.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MUSKOGEE NATION IN  
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ASSEMBLED:--

That G. W. Grayson, present delegate  
to Washington D. C., shall be recommissioned as such delegate to serve  
for the period of sixty (60) days from the first of April next, and the  
Principal Chief is hereby authorized to commission him to that office.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:-- That the Principal Chief, Isparhecher,  
is hereby authorized to accompany the delegate provided in the fore  
going act with authority and power to do all things necessary to aid  
in effecting the object with which the delegation is charged.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:-- That if Congress shall appropriate the  
amount of \$333,000.00 when the delegation and Principal Chief are  
hereby authorized and directed to sign all papers and do whatever else is  
is necessary to cause the early payment of said amount as intended by  
the act of appropriation, and their acts in that regard are to be  
regarded and accepted as the act of the Muskogee or Creek Nation.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:--That there be and is hereby appropriated the  
sum of (\$620) six hundred and twenty dollars each for G. W. Grayson and  
Isparhecher, the same being for per diem for sixty (60) days as del-  
egation to Washington, D. C., and traveling expenses to and from said  
City, and five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for contingent expenses incurred  
in the prosecution of their work.

Adopted.

A. P. McK.

Clk.

W. A. Sappala,

Sec. of W.

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Concurred in.

J. H. Lynch,

Clk.

G. A. Alexander,

Pres. H. of K.  
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Vote in the House of Kings on Chief's Veto.

To sustain veto, 2,

Against " 29.

J. H. Lynch,  
Clk.

G. A. Alexander,  
Pres. H. of K.

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Vote in the House of Warriors on Chief's Veto.

To sustain veto, 1,

Against " 56.

A. P. McK.  
Clk.

W. A. Sapulpa,  
Sp. H. of W.

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