

To the Senate of the United States

Propositions in the form of a Treaty
have been recently sent to me, by a special messenger
from the Choctaw nation of Indians,
proposing to cede their entire country to the
United States east of the Mississippi River. This
has been an act exclusively of the Indians themselves,
The Government was not informed of it, and
was unrepresented at the Council that formed
it. The Indians conceived of their own accord,
drafted & executed the propositions which are
now presented, consenting to be bound by
them if within three months, the President
& Senate should approve. It will be perceived
that they declare, in the last article, that if those
which are now offered, shall be rejected, none
others will be opened to, or submitted by
them.

It is certainly desirable, & of great importance
on various accounts, that some agreement
should be concluded, that would effect an object
so important as removing the Indians beyond
the territorial limits of the States, In such ar-
rangement I should be disposed to extend to
them terms as liberal, as it might be inferred
the Senate would sanction. I could not how-
ever, on constitutional grounds, consent to
adopt the provisions contained in the
present ^{proposed} treaty, nor yet do I consider it
advisable or proper to withhold it from the
consideration of the Senate
1st such is the request of the Indians
2^d that the opinion of the Senate in relation
to the terms proposed by the Indians, would
have a salutary effect in further negotiations

if this should be deemed advisable
3 That the propositions altho objectionable in
certain particulars, are believed to be suscep-
tible of modification which might render
them conformable to the humane and
liberal policy, which it is desirable on the
part of the Government to our red Brethren
and be made at the same acceptable to the
Indians. To these modifications, and to
any suggestions of the Senate, the Presi-
dent in the exercise of peculiar functions
would give the most respectful consideration

4^m Such a course is abundantly justified
by precedent in the earlier Administration
of the Government and though not used for
some years past, may it seems to me be
now properly resorted to under the peculiar
circumstances of our present relations
with the Indian Tribes from a considera-
tion of the magnitude of the results which
are contemplated, and from a conviction
that the measures, thus proposed from their
origin, by the united councils of the two
branches of the treaty making power
will be more salutary to the owners
people, who have to bear a deep interest
in this question, or well as the Indian Tribes

5- This mode of communicating with the
Senate in relation to compacts which
it is proposed to enter into with the
Indian Tribes, is believed not to be liable
to the objection, which might, perhaps, be
properly made to its application to our
negotiations with civilized nations. The
surrey which it is undesirable to
preserve in the latter case, is comparatively
unimportant in the former.
With these views of the subject the President
submits to the Senate the suggestions
alterations

which ^{here} occurs to him, in relation to the
propositions made by the Choctaw
notion ^{They or such} and his view of the modifications
which ^{at many} ~~might~~ render those proposals
acceptable to the parties respectively -
Such are the views which occur to the
President by his reflection on the propos-
-sals of the Choctaw Nation. ^{He will chiefly} willing to
^{however} yield ~~more~~ to the correction which
may result from ^{the} frank interchange
of opinion with his constitutional
advisers. ^{to} The subjects for the Senate
the following questions

- ⊙ Will the Senate advise and consent
to the ratification of the Treaty with
the Choctaws herewith presented
- ⊙ Will the Senate advise & consent to
its ratification, with any ^{with} and what
amendments