

Report of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee,  
May 27, 1830 (Draft)

Confidential

~~In the Senate of the U S  
May 27, 1830.~~

~~Mr. White, from the committee on Indian affairs to whom was referred the message of the President of the United States, of the 6th instant, relating to the Choctaw Indians, made submitted the following Report~~

Mr White ~~from~~ made the following report. The Committee on Indian Affairs to whom was refered the Message of the President of the United States, dated the 6th. instant, and its' accompanying documents, marked B. C. D. E. F. G. H; has had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following Report.

The Document C. is the project of a treaty between the United States and the Choctaw Indians, prepared in the Choctaw Nation, without the knowledge of any officer of the Federal Government, and transmitted to the President of the United States, ready signed, by those pretending to represent the Indians, and wanting nothing but the sanctions of the United States, in due form, to make it obligatory upon the parties.

Document D. is a protest under the signatures of a portion of the Choctaws against it, and containing charges against those who had an active agency in preparing and forwarding it to the President.

The Committee are of opinion that whether the charges are well founded or not; as they have been formally made, they ought to induce the President of the United States to withhold his sanction to it, until the sense of the Nation could be fairly taken, even if the terms proposed in the instrument, were such, as the United States would deem reasonable and just. But independant of this objection, the terms themselves, are, in the opinion of the Committee, so unreasonable that the United States ought by no means to accede to them, even if the Nation was unanimous in proposing them. In the opinion of the Committee it would be a waste of time to go much into detail in specifying objections, they would barely remark that the 3rd. 12th. 16th. 18th. and 20th. Articles ~~are~~ contain stipulations which ought not to receive the countenance of the President or of the Senate. They therefore recommend to the Senate the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved that the Senate do advise the President of the United States, not to make, or ratify, the treaty which the Choctaw Indians have proposed, in the project submitted to him, dated the 17th. day of March 1830 and which accompanied his message to the Senate on the 6th. instant.

The Committee has extended its' examination to the contents of Document E. intended to be proposed by the President of the United States to the Choctaw Indians, as the terms to be embraced in a treaty to be formed with them, and find it very difficult to satisfy themselves as to the precise stipulations, which ought to be contained in any treaty to be concluded.

They are decidedly of opinion that the terms to be proposed ought not only to be just, but liberal, towards the Indians; and in this regard, it appears to the Committee that if the terms about to be proposed require any alterations, they should consist, in lessening the considerations to be offered, for the lands now occupied by the Choctaws.

It appears from the Documents submitted, that very serious discontents exist in the Nation, and if the Senate should, in advance of any negotiation, attempt to fix, in detail the terms, and stipulations, to be included in a treaty, such course might have the effect of defeating entirely, an agreement with the Choctaws, which might be highly advantageous to them, and to the United States. The Committee therefore ask to be discharged from the farther consideration of this subject.

*[Endorsed:]* In Senate U. S. May 27. 1830. Read & ordered to be printed in confidence for the use of the Senate.

AD draft by Hugh Lawson White, National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 46, SEN 21B-C4.