

John Pitchlynn to Andrew Jackson

Chocktaw Nation.
Augst 11th. 1830.

Dear Friend

The communications bearing date of the 24th. of July last which was sent by the Secretary of War, to the chiefs Mashulatubbee and Nitokgachee; and the sepearte one to myself, was in due time handed to me by Maj. Donelly—I immediately forwarded the letter which was directed to the chiefs, which was interpreted to them by Mr. Mackey the other interpreter for the U.S. This was the first news they had received on the subject. The Agent had, to be sure, told them at the Annuity ground on the fifteenth of the last month (July) that he held a communication to the chiefs from their father the President; the reading of which was deferred until the hurry of the annuity should subside. as soon as the Annuity was distributed the chiefs called on the Agent for the communication, informing him that they were then ready to attend to it. The Agent informed them that he had handed it to Laflour. The chiefs were somewhat displeased at this—and observed that they would not go to Laflour to get news from the President. There were some other careless remarks made about it and the matter dropped without further investigation.

To the careless treatment of your first communication must in part be attributed the delay of the delegation; for immediately on receiving the communication which was directed to the chiefs of the republican party by the Secretary of War, they proceeded to call a council, which from the scattered situation of our people could not be effected to hold the appearance of a national council sooner than the ninth of the present month. The chiefs of the republican party are determined to see their father the President they are desirous of being clothed with proper authority to treat should a reasonable offer be made them; And these powers cannot be vested in any other way but in national council

We could easily have had the council on the 9th. but unfortunately the Agent was somewhere in the neighborhood of columbus on business of his own when he received the communication from the secretary of war, and could not, or did not attend to it till six days after the chiefs and myself had received letter of the same date. To these facts must be attributed the delay. For I am certain, that, had the first letter which was sent to our Agent have been interpreted at the time of our meeting at the factory, which was on the 14th. of last month; the delegation would now have been on their way to Tennessee—

We have now, however, got matters in a proper train and as soon as it can possibly be effected we will be at the place appointed by our father the President.

It would not be amiss here to inform you that the Agent appointed a meeting at Wilson's on the 10th (yesterday) But that place is in Laflour's district, and as he keeps an armed force of seven or eight hundred men continually about him, the chiefs of the republican party would not meet at that place.

The chiefs of the republican party, from the communication addressed to them by the Secretary of War; had appointed a meeting to be held on the 9th, at the house of the old chief Mashulatubbee. But when the Agent returned and made an appointment for a meeting at another place, to be on the day after the appointment at Mashulatubbee's, for the purpose of giving the people an opportunity of attending both councils, it was thought proper to withdraw the order for the meeting at Mashulatubbee's and set it on the fifteenth at another place more central to the population of the two districts. Unfortunately for our nation there are two distinct parties amongst us, one, tho' it is a disgrace to the name is called the christian party—the Other the republicans—Laflour is the chief of the former party, and as the Agent has gone amongst them with the Secretary's communication it is very likely that there will be a delegation from them, which I hope may be the case; as by that means the nation will be fully represented when the delegation from the republican party comes on, which at farthest will not be more than five days behind them.

All these things I thought it my duty to communicate to you, that you might be fully apprised of what is going on in our devoted country; and that you may not be deceived by misrepresentation; for it is more than likely that Laflour, ~~and his party~~ will represent his party as a national delegation, which I sincerely hope will not be regarded as such by your excellency.

I could not attend the council at Wilson's on account of bad health—I shall endeavour to attend the council on the fifteenth—and shall accompany the delegation to Franklin if Possible—Mr. Mackey is doing all he can to bring the thing about, and will also accompany the delegation—I am dear sir, as ever
Your friend and Brother

John Pitchlynn

Library of Congress, Andrew Jackson Papers.