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3-16-1825

Letter from James Barbour to Benjamin Reeves, George Sibley, Pierre Menard, March 16, 1825

James Barbour
Secretary of War

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Department of War

16 March 1825.

Gentlemen,

You are appointed by the President of the United States, Commissions to carry into effect the objects contemplated by the Act of Congress, authorizing the President to cause a road to be marked out from the western frontier of Missouri, to the confines of Mexico – a copy of which act is herewith enclosed for your information and government. Your Commissions, will be forwarded to you so soon as they are prepared by the Department of State.

Two preliminary steps are required to be taken before you can proceed, definitely, to mark the road. First, - the consent of the intervening Indian Tribes is to be procured - and second- an agreement is to entered into between the United States and the Mexican government for continuing the road from the boundary line of the United States to the frontier of New Mexico. Measures have been taken to confirm the latter, the result of which, it is hoped, will be Commissioners, which is fixed, for this branch of your service, at five dollars, each, per day whilst actually engaged in surveying and marking the road, and for the pay of a Surveyor, chain carriers, markers and Hunters and all other necessary expences.

The appropriation is in no event to be exceeded. The object of the Act of Congress is specific, no instructions, in detail, are necessary, therefore, to be given, except in making your report in full, in your field notes, and ___ of the road in which you will be full and explicit, in remarking upon the description of country through which you may pass; the Rivers and Creeks which may cross it ___.

The form of making up, and vouching your accounts, will be the same as is directed to be observed in my letter of this task relating to the treaties which you may enter into with the tribes through whose Country the road may pass.

Your compensation, as Commissioners, will be, as you are informed, three dollars each, and five dollars, per day, for your Secretary, whilst actually engaged in treating with the Indians; and five dollars a day for each Commissioner, whilst actually engaged in surveying and marking the road.

It is in the meaning of these instructions to allow you a Compensation of eight dollars a day, each, whilst engaged in the twofold duties assigned to you, and five dollars a day for a Secretary whilst engaged in treating with the Indians.

There is no compensation for a Secretary provided for in the estimate upon which the approximation is made for Surveying and marking the road –

I have ___

(Signed) James Barbour (?)

To Benjamin Reeves

George C. Sibley

Pierre Menard

.....
and secretary, is that in which you were actually engaged in carrying into effect the object, connected with this branch of your Commission. –

I have ___ - ___ - ___.

(Signed)

James Barbour

Instructions as to intercourse with the Indian tribes

filed July 15 1826

_____ -

[The three lines above were written sideways in the original. This bracketed note is not a part of the original text.]

To Benjamin H. Reeves

George C. Sibley

Pierre Menard