

69TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT  
No. 892

## TO PAY LEGAL EXPENSES OF SAC AND FOX TRIBE OF INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA

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APRIL 15, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
to be printed

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MR. HASTINGS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted  
the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 3538]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3538) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to pay legal expenses incurred by the Sac and Fox Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

This bill is identical with H. R. 9161, which is now on the House Calendar. The facts are fully set forth in the letter of the Secretary of the Interior, which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, February 27, 1926.

HON. SCOTT LEAVITT,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,  
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. LEAVITT: Further reference is made to your letter of February 11, 1926, inclosing for a report a copy of H. R. 9161, being a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to pay legal expenses incurred by the Sac and Fox Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma.

The records show that the Sac and Fox tribal council, through their representatives, Chief McKosato, Alexander Connolly, and William Pattequa, entered into an oil and gas mining lease with one Lee Patrick, covering 780 acres of land known as the Sac and Fox Agency and School grounds of Stroud, Okla., which lease was approved by the department on June 5, 1918.

Members of the tribe later objected to the lease on the grounds that the tribe generally knew nothing of the leasing of the lands, and the tribal council employed attorneys to represent them and to obtain the cancellation of the instrument. The employment of the attorneys was without the authorization of the Interior Department and no formal or written contract was ever approved in accordance with law. However, under the agreement of the attorneys with the tribal

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authorities, certain services were rendered the tribe, and the tribe has requested authorization for payment for such services out of the tribal funds of the Sac and Fox Indians.

In view of all the facts in this case as above outlined, this department believes that the requested authorization should be granted.

This matter has been previously presented to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget in connection with a typewritten copy of an amendment intended to be proposed to the deficiency appropriation bill.

In reply to the request of this department for an expression of the views of that bureau it was stated that such an appropriation would not be in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

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