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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 12, 1864,

*To the House of Representatives :*

In response to your resolution of the 19th ult., I herewith transmit a communication from the Secretary of War, which conveys the information requested, so far as the records of his Department enable him to furnish it, and states the reasons which make it impracticable for him to reply more definitely as to the amount of money expended in payment of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi since the assignment of Gen. E. K. Smith to the command of the Department.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

## LETTER OF SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A., }  
Richmond, Dec. 8, 1864. }

*To the President of the Confederate States :*

SIR: I have received the following resolution of the House of Representatives, referred by your Excellency to this Department :

“ *Resolved*, That the President be requested to inform this House what amount of money has been expended in the payment of the army of the Trans-Mississippi Department, since the assignment of Gen. E. K. Smith to the command of that Department.”

The Quartermaster General, to whom the resolution was sent for report, has written in reply two letters, herewith submitted, in which all the information on the subject in his possession is furnished, and the reasons stated why he is unable to make a more satisfactory report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES A SEDDON,  
Secretary of War.

LETTER OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Quartermaster General's Office,  
Richmond, Nov. 26th, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 19th instant, forwarded to you by the President, upon which you endorse "for prompt attention and report," which resolution is as follows:

"Resolved. That the President be requested to inform this House what amount of money has been expended in the payment of the army of the Trans-Mississippi Department since the assignment of Gen. E. K. Smith to the command of that department."

And in reply I have to state, that I am unable to furnish any information on the subject, as no accounts for the payments made to the troops, or for disbursements on account of supplies furnished by the Quartermaster's Department have been received at this office since the assignment of Gen. E. K. Smith to the command of the Trans-Mississippi department; it having been generally understood here that the necessary authority for obtaining the proper supply of funds and accountability for the same had been committed to the supervision of Gen. Smith.

In consequence of the difficulty and danger of crossing the Mississippi, no regular accounts have been subjected to the risks attending it, but have been retained over there for future transmission to this Bureau.

The amounts requested by this Bureau to be sent to that Department, can be furnished if desired.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. R. LAWTON,  
Quartermaster General.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

## LETTER OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Quartermaster General's Office,*  
Richmond, Dec. 2nd, 1864. }

Sir: As requested by your endorsement, I send a statement of the funds requested to be sent to the Trans-Mississippi Department, to accompany my report in answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives, asking "what amount of money has been expended in the payment of the army of the Trans-Mississippi Department since the assignment of Gen. E. K. Smith to the command of that department."

Gen. Smith was assigned to duty in the Trans-Mississippi, Jan. 14, 1863. From the 3d June to the 12th August, 1863, requisitions were made to the amount of \$36,099,809, as per statement herewith. Of this sum, \$12,922,287 was sent to that department in drafts drawn on the Treasury in the city of Richmond. The drafts have lately (by an arrangement effected here) been directed to be returned for cancellation. \$15,117,522 was in drafts payable at Shreveport, La.; and \$8,060,000 on the Depository at San Antonio, Texas. Whether all or any part of the two last named amounts have been made available to the disbursing officers, I am unable to say.

Ascertaining that the funds before referred to had not been available, and anxious to meet the urgent demands of this branch of the public service, I submitted (on the 25th October, 1863) a request that the sum of \$26,018,567 be sent to the credit of the officers of the department, to pay the army and meet expenditures to the 25th December, 1863.

On the 25th April, I again called attention to my former communication, and requested that the additional sum of \$15,000,000 be added to the sum theretofore requested for service of the Trans-Mississippi Department.

What portion of the last two sums were sent, if any, I am unable to say. I have not been informed that any had been furnished.

From this statement it will appear that the total sum requested by this department to be furnished the Trans-Mississippi Department, for the pay of the troops and for the service of the Quartermaster's Department, amounts to \$77,118,376.

It is proper to add, that I have been informed that arrangements have been perfected, by which funds needed in that department, will be supplied on that side of the Mississippi, without reference to this office.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. R. LAWTON,  
Quartermaster General.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

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