(copy)

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Department of the Interior
Office Indian Affairs
January 29th 1858.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter of the 24th ultimo, from J. B. Chapman addressed to the Hon J. G. Shroder, in regard to procuring the rights of way for the construction of a Rail Road through the Cherokee lands, and in which inquiry is also made, as to whether the Department will defray the expenses, in case a delegation of the Osage Indians should be brought to this City with a view of negotiating a treaty with them for the purpose of granting the rights of way for the same road through the Osage lands, to a Rail Road Company, of which you will perceive Mr Chapman represents himself as president.

I also send you a copy of the reply of this office, of the 18th instant, declining to take action adverse to the wishes of the Cherokees, and refusing to recognize or defray the expenses of a delegation of the Osages for the object specified.

Since that period I have received a communication from Agent Dorn of the 14th inst (a copy of which I enclose herewith) containing certain allegations connected with the proceedings taken by Mr Chapman and others in holding a council with a portion of the Osages without the consent of the Agent. It is further represented that said