

be paid on account of these lands. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes are entirely destitute, dependent upon the Government in the main for subsistence, and have no tribal fund or possible means out of which payment could be made for the tract of country thus set aside for them; nor has the price to be paid for such lands at any time been fixed, either by agreement between the Cherokees on the one part and the Cheyennes and Arapahoes on the other, or by executive order, as provived in said treaty.

In view of these facts and treaty stipulations, I should deem it my duty to recommend that the President be requested to proceed to fix and determine the price to be paid for these lands, but that I regard it as highly desirable, both in the interest of economy and on other grounds, that the entire tract thus ceded by the Cherokees in the treaty of 1866, excepting only that portion upon which the Osages have been located, and from which the price to be paid has been determined by the President, as before cited, should be appraised at the same time with the lands ceded to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and without awaiting the actual settlements thereon of other friendly tribes as contemplated in the treaty.

I have therefore the honor to recommend that Congress be asked to pass an act authorizing the President, upon the expression of assent to such action by the council of the Cherokee Nation, to proceed to fix the price of all the lands ceded by the Cherokees in the treaty of 1866, excepting such only as have been sold to and occupied by the Osages: *Provided*, That the tract set apart as a reservation for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes by the treaty of 1867 shall be separately appraised.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,  
*Commissioner.*

*To the Honorable Secretary of the Interior.*