

RELIEF OF CERTAIN NAVAJO INDIANS—VETO MESSAGE

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RETURNING

WITHOUT APPROVAL THE BILL (S. 3794) ENTITLED, "AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF CERTAIN NAVAJO INDIANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

JULY 22, 1940.—Read; referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed

To the Senate:

I return herewith, without my approval, S. 3794, for the relief of certain Navajo Indians, and for other purposes.

This bill appropriates \$30,000 as compensation to the heirs of six Navajo boys who were killed, and \$3,000 as damages on account of injuries sustained by two boys, when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by a train near Wingate, N. Mex.

While the record indicates negligence on the part of the driver, thereby warranting claims for compensation, it seems to me that the proposed payments in the death cases are somewhat excessive. The six children killed were between the ages of 10 and 15 years, and the two injured boys were 12 and 14 years of age. They were all wards of the Federal Government, and were being educated in schools maintained by the Government. They were not wage earners and those killed left no actual dependents. Those killed were buried at the expense of the United States, and those injured received medical attention and hospital care at Federal expense.

It is stated that the two injured boys have fully recovered but, since the record fails to disclose the extent of their injuries, it is impossible to say whether the payments proposed are, or are not, excessive.

I am withholding my approval of the bill in the belief that the Congress should, in the light of the above suggestions, and upon the basis of such additional information as it may obtain, give further consideration to these claims.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 16, 1940.*

S. 3794

SEVENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; AT THE THIRD SESSION, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON ON WEDNESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY

AN ACT For the relief of certain Navajo Indians, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary of the Interior the sum of \$30,000, which amount shall be deposited as individual Indian money to the credit of the estates of the following-named deceased Navajo Indians, and in the respective amounts stated for distribution to the heirs of such deceased Indians as determined by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with existing law: Wilson Platero, \$5,000; Meguelius Sacatero, \$5,000; Tom Wood, \$5,000; John Apachite, \$5,000; Roy Chavez, \$5,000; and John Chavez, \$5,000.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized and directed to pay to the Secretary of the Interior the sum of \$3,000, which amount shall be deposited as individual Indian money to the credit of Dempsey Sacatero and Jose Mexicano, or their heirs, in the sum of \$1,500 each.

SEC. 3. The amounts herein appropriated shall be in full compensation for claims for deaths or injuries sustained in an accident occurring near Gallup, New Mexico, on December 6, 1936: *Provided*, That the amounts herein appropriated shall be expended in accordance with the regulations governing the handling of individual Indian money: *Provided further*, That no part of the amount herein appropriated shall be paid to or received by any agent or attorney on account of services rendered in connection with these claims, and any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$1,000.

WM. B. BANKHEAD,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JNO. N. GARNER,

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

[Endorsement on back of bill:]

I certify that this Act originated in the Senate.

EDW. A. HALSEY, *Secretary.*

