

PAYMENT TO EACH MEMBER OF THE RED LAKE BAND
OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

M E S S A G E

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RETURNING

WITHOUT APPROVAL THE BILL (H. R. 3248) AUTHORIZING A PAY-
MENT OF \$15 TO EACH MEMBER OF THE RED LAKE BAND OF
CHIPPEWA INDIANS

AUGUST 1, 1939.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be
printed

To the House of Representatives:

I return herewith without my approval, enrolled H. R. 3248, which would authorize a payment of \$15 to each member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota.

The proposed payment would be made from a tribal fund derived from the sale of timber products which are manufactured at the tribal sawmill from stumpage cut on the Red Lake Reservation. The cost of operating the sawmill is defrayed from this fund. While I would have no objection to the distribution of any profits derived from this enterprise, I am informed that no part of the present balance in the operating fund represents an excess of operating income over operating cost. On the contrary, it appears that the mill is in debt to the Red Lake Tribe for stumpage in an amount which is far in excess of the difference between the balance in the tribal fund and the amount that will be required to operate the enterprise during the current fiscal year. In view of this and the fact that certain transportation problems have arisen recently which may result in a higher production cost, I believe that it would be unwise to deplete the mill fund at this time by the disbursement therefrom of some \$30,000 for per capita distribution among the Red Lake Indians.

Furthermore, there appears to be little justification at present for a per capita payment to these Indians from the standpoint of economic need. Many of them have an income from the fishing industry, while

others are employed on Civilian Conservation Corps work, on Indian Service road work, on Works Progress Administration projects, and in the timber and lumber operations on the reservation. In fact, employment opportunities exceed the requirements of the Indians, making it necessary to employ whites and Indians of other tribes to meet the demand for labor at the Red Lake Agency. I am informed that the needs of many of the unemployables are being met by the operation of the Social Security Act.

There is now under consideration a land-use program for the Red Lake Reservation which, if inaugurated, will require for its success the use of such tribal capital as may then be available. It is certain that the expenditure of the tribal funds for such a purpose will result in greater benefits to the members of the tribe than could possibly flow from a per capita distribution of tribal assets.

For the foregoing reasons, I am compelled to withhold approval of the bill.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 1, 1939.

H. R. 3248

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

AN ACT Authorizing a per capita payment of \$15 each to the members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians from the proceeds of the sale of timber and lumber on the Red Lake Reservation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized to withdraw as much as may be necessary from the fund in the Treasury of the United States arising from the proceeds of the sale of timber and lumber within the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota, according to the provisions of the Act of May 18, 1916 (39 Stat. L. 137), and to make therefrom a per capita payment or distribution of \$15 to each of the living members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of the State of Minnesota, immediately payable upon the passage of this Act, under such rules and regulations as the said Secretary may prescribe: *Provided*, That the money paid to the Indians as authorized herein shall not be subject to any lien or claim of attorneys or other parties: *Provided, further*. That before any payment is made hereunder, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota shall, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, ratify the provisions of this Act and accept same.

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 bill originated in the House of Representatives.

SOUTH TRIMBLE, *Clerk.*

