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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd MAR 7

1881

R. H. Pratt

Carlike

Wch. 2/81

Reps. Copy of letter
from W. J. Cline
land of Rose
bud. Rel. to
Sending child
re home

See letter to Cook July 11/81
Cook

Copy

Indian Training School,
Carlisle, Pa.

Feb. 2, 1881.

Respectfully referred to the
Honorable Commissioner of
Indian Affairs. I have received no
letters prior to this date written by
Mr. Cleveland for Indians, asking
that their children might be sent
home ^{and} proposing to pay their
way. The whole thing seems
childish but still it may be best
to give some authoritative answer
from the Department. I have re-
ceived no letters of this kind from
the Agent or from any one official-
ly connected with the agency.

R. H. Pratt
1st Lieut 10th Cav.
In charge.

Copy

Resbud, D. T.

2-15-84.

Capt. R. H. Pratt,

Dear Sir:

The fact that the Secty. of Interior permitted Spotted Tail to take home his children on paying their expenses himself still rankles in the bosom of some of those who sent their children to Carlisle "because he sent his," ^{and} from a desire to "get even" with Spotted Tail in this regard, more than from any better cause, I am satisfied. I am constantly appealed to for information as whether the Secty. thereby gave the same privilege to others ^{and} whether, if they furnish the money, they can get their children back before the 3 years are up. You will naturally reply send them to the Agent, who is the proper representative of the Gov't at your agency. The trouble is they will be satisfied with nothing short of word from headquarters ^{and} it is only after trying all other expedients first that I now ask if you will be kind enough to give me something in writing which will be a sufficient ^{and} final answer. The question is simply can other parents get their children whenever they will furnish the money

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and other necessaries for getting them home - as Spot did -
 or must they wait until the Govt. returns them at the
 end of the time generally understood (3 years) unless for
 some extraordinary cause, as dangerous illness they are
 sent home earlier? I sincerely trust the Secty. only
 meant to give Skotted Tail the opportunity to make a fool
 of himself if he wanted to and did not intend to open a
 door for the rest, and that you can so inform them.

We are snow bound here. We have had no mail from
 the east for nearly a month. Blue Tomahawk has lost
 another child here and now the boy at Carlisle - if he is
 still alive, is the only one left to him except a young
 man not living here. I often look back upon my hasty
 visit at Carlisle with great pleasure and wish you every en-
 couragement and abundant success in what you have un-
 dertaken. A majority at least of the letters to us from
 the children from this agency go through my hands and al-
 most invariably they express themselves as happy and show
 a marked improvement in their command of English.

Kindest regards to all engaged with you in this impor-
 tant work and especially to Mrs. Pratt. Mrs. E. joins me.

Sincerely yrs.

(Signed) W. J. Cleveland.