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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec'd APR 23

1896

45/114

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Apr. 22. 1896.

Pratt, R. H.,

Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Regarding John Kennedy,  
Richard Grant & Peter Dillon.

Received 4/24/96

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In reply to:

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,  
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., Apr. 22, 1896.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :

Replying to your letter of Apr. 21st, marked "Education 14664" informing me that John Kennedy, Peter Dillon and Richard Grant, students of this school, appeal to you for return home because they have been here six years, saying that I refuse them permission ; I have to respectfully advise you that John Kennedy and Richard Grant are each eighteen years of age and Peter Dillon is seventeen ; that John Kennedy is a Junior and Richard Grant and Peter Dillon are both in No. 9 School-room. They are bright and capable and from a multitude of experiences I realize that a return to their homes means the end of their school term here, with possibly a shift to some other school. They are all boys who ought to be guided as I would guide my own children. Knowing from a multitude of previous cases that each of these boys will later be grateful for such control, I felt it best to assume paternal care and do that for them which I know to be for their best interests.

I placed the matter before them as I do before all students ; that inasmuch as the Government assumes all the expenses of their ed-



The Hon. Comm.

ucation, and their parents and guardians are entirely free from that, it is as little as they and their parents can do to make their education as economical to the Government as possible. It would cost practically \$100. apiece to send them home and bring them back. The part of good judgment requires that they should be willing to save this to the Government that it may help to confer a like benefit on others. They are all well behaved young men and this course with them will stimulate their energies in getting an education.

We have not for some time been promising to return our students at the end of five years. We rather leave the idea of returning before graduating out of sight. It may be from the former rule they have had an idea that they were to return at the end of their five years' term, but whether that is so or not, their good and the saving of what we have already done for them demands that we hold them to their opportunities. If you permit their letters to you (which should have gone through me) to remain unanswered or if they are advised by you to stick to school and complete their course, each will adjust himself to the situation without trouble and do better in the future than they have in the past. I take it the Government intends young Indians sent here shall be educated to at least the grade at which Carlisle graduates them, and I am doing what I can to make all Indian s coming under my influence feel that.

Very respectfully,



Capt. 10th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated (P)