

5180

OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec'd FEB 6

1897

47/191

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Feb. 4. 1897.

Pratt, R. H.,

Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Replying to letter of Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>,  
marked "Education, 939"  
regarding positions of  
Mr. Spray and Miss Merri-  
man, and the transposi-  
tion of duties between  
Miss Cummins and Miss  
Quinn, and respectfully  
requesting a reconsider-  
ation of the position  
taken.

Letter to Pratt Feb 8/97 (p117)

File

SPECIAL

In reply to:

5180

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

Carlisle, Pa., February 4th, 1897.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

In reply to your letter of January 26th, marked "Education 939", I respectfully submit that the position you have taken seems to me not to be according to the law, nor is it at all in accord with the practice of the Government. The law referred to was passed to cover payment of a debt incurred against the Government without previous approval, and to prevent a recurrence of such unauthorized obligation. I do not propose to incur any debt, and the service is authorized and is to be paid for fully, and is not, therefore, voluntary. As a guarantee that there can and will be no obligation resting against the United States, I invite your attention to the fact that, during the history of this school, I have expended from my charity resources considerably more than a hundred thousand dollars, in salaries, transportation, erection of buildings, etc., etc., every cent of which was as much in violation of this law, as what I am now doing in the payment of the salary of Mr. Spray and Miss Merriman, and the adding to the salary of Miss Quinn, and very much of it in exactly the same line. The Government has always accepted of such help gladly, and noted it with satisfaction in its yearly Official Reports to Congress. I have also had repeated suggestions from the Indian Office that I should

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

make just such use of my charity resources.

In regard to the transposition of duties between Miss Cummins and Miss Quinn, I feel justified in what I am doing by the clause in paragraph 207 of the Regulations providing that "When necessary, specified employes may be detailed for other service when not required for the duty for which they were engaged," and by a section in paragraph 52 of the Rules for the Indian Service which provides that "Any teacher may be required by the superintendent to assist in clerical or other work incident to the school." Also by a section of paragraph 118 of the same rules which provides that "It must also be understood by anyone entering this Service, that additional duties, or duties entirely different from those usually attaching to the position to which he or she is regularly assigned, may be required," and by the fact that the interchange is entirely agreeable to the two employes. It is also justified by long established custom.

Believing that you have not given this matter your own attention, I feel justified in writing this letter to request a reconsideration of the position taken in your letter.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "R.H. Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Capt. 10th Cav'y., Supt.

(Dictated)  
Mc