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By order of

E. B. MERITT,
Asst. Commissioner.

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1917.

CARLISLE

File No.

125



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.



November
Twenty-Second,
1 9 1 7

FILED BY G. P. F.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have a number of boys who have expressed a desire to enlist in the Navy, probably twelve or fifteen. I have discussed the matter with the Recruiting Office in Harrisburg and have arranged with him so that any boys who enroll shall go in large parties and not keep the school under a certain excitement by one or two drifting out every day or so. This takes place in the case of boys who go under the draft. I feel that the enrollment of these boys is valuable, first, on account of the need of the country for able bodied men and second, because they will be given a training and discipline, during the four years which they are bound to the Navy, which will be as good or better than they could get here.

However, there are two exceptions of the case which I feel I should invite your attention. First: I have one or two boys in this party who re-enrolled last summer and whose transportation was paid by the Government and who will have only been here slightly over a month. If the Government would have paid their transportation from their homes to their place of enlistment, had they enlisted at home, I can see no real loss to the Government but simply a diminishment of our transportation fund.

The other point, however, is that the enlistment of these boys takes them off the roll and will make it practicably impossible for me to keep the enrollment for the last two quarters up to the number of pupils necessary to use all of the

Each
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funds available for the school while at the same time the high cost of supplies makes it important for us to have every dollar of our appropriation and more. It seems to me that the situation arising in our schools, through the enlistment and draft of students should receive the most careful consideration of the Office, in connection with the proposed items of legislation to increase the per capita and to allow additional funds. It does not seem fair that the patriotic action of students should be permitted to embarrass the school.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John H. ...".
Superintendent

JF-E

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Mr. John Francis, Jr.,
Supt., Carlisle School.

FILED BY C. P. F.

My dear Mr. Francis:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 23d, in regard to the enlistments in the Navy of boys of your school, and the matter of transportation to Carlisle of one or two of them who will have been in school only a little over one month, also the fact that the enlistments of these boys decrease the enrollment at the Carlisle School and will make it impracticable for you to keep within the per capita limitation.

In reply, you are advised that the transportation payment having been made by the Government, that matter need not now be questioned. As to the decrease in enrollment by reason of the enlistments effecting your per capita cost, the Office is taking steps to procure legislation, and we hope that Congress will enact some law which will permit the schools to operate on a more liberal basis. In the meantime, endeavor to keep within the per capita limitation until we know what legislation can be obtained.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

SAR-12-6

Assistant Commissioner.

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