

5. ¹⁵ Fragment of statement written by Governor William Butler
¹⁶ on which Senate took no action affecting the
¹⁷ Nation.

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and do not know to this day whether their claims are just or unjust. The Council are convinced that individuals, as well as the authorities of the nation have not been credited with all the payments made.

At the close of the payment last mentioned in the fall of 1847, Mr. Walker, the Assignee, proposed to the Chgo. to Cancel the receipt by assuming the balance due as a national debt. After various propositions from each side, the Chgo. assented to bring this perplexing affair to a close, proposed, as their ultimatum: that if he would throw out such claims as he had against such persons as had, instead of moving to this country, moved to Canada, and such as had died insolvent (and there were but few and their debts comparatively small) they would assume the balance and pay it in two Annual instalments, provided: the Department would allow this amount to be so paid. This offer, in equity, as we think, was contumeliously rejected by Mr. Walker, who flew into a rage, insulted the Council — calling them "a set of d—s and Rascals," — declaring he would "now show his face ^{here} again" and left the room and immediately set out on his return home, without even reporting ^{to} or crediting the Council with the amount collected at that payment, and as already stated we now find credits on the Receipt only \$101.00. Mr. W. then sent the claim to Washington again, but ^{again} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~received~~ ^{received} ~~again~~. The Commissioner is well aware that the Council has no right to pledge any portion of the Annual fund for the payment of any such debt, and least of all, the improvement money, that belongs to such individuals as had improvements appraised to them. The former by a rigid rule of the Department was paid ^{and paid} to the "Heads of families". This was well known to the claimant at the time the Receipt were given. These claims have been withheld from us since the fall of 1847;

thus depriving the Council of the ~~clear~~ opportunity of collecting the balances justly due at the different payments ^{of the annuity} that have to them place since that period. Failing in this second or third appeal to the Department and conscious that by his own rash and reckless conduct he had placed insuperable barriers to an amicable adjustment, he, as we have every reason to believe, made a ~~sham~~ ^{gross} assignment to his son-in-law, who is reputed to be blind, all for stage effect.

In view of these facts, which we stand prepared to make good by proof, if the Hon Commission requires it, we here in the name of the Wyandott nation protest against any portion of the annuity being appropriated to the payment of this claim in any other way than by payments made by the individual debtors.

The Council still stand ready to aid the parties ^{equally} holding these claims, when they shall present themselves with clean accounts and "clean hands".

Respectfully submitted