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At a Council held with the Winnebago Indians at Prairie du Chien Oct. 5. 1838, the following talk was had:-

Gov. Dodge.- Say to the Indians (addressing the Interpreter) that I am happy to see them together in Council - that I am gratified to see the Portage and Mississippi bands together - that I am sorry to learn that difficulties have existed among them - that I hope they will meet together in future as friends, and smoke in peace the pipe of friendship - that a weak people should always be united, as in union alone there is strength - that it is the wish of their Great Father that they should live in harmony together - that I regret to hear that evil birds have been flying and whispering bad things in their ears, producing discord among them - that those who have endeavored to produce this confusion are not their true friends, but people who have sinister motives, and want their money, horses, and other property - that they should pay attention only to the counsel and advice of their true friends, distinguishing between them and those who desire to fleece them ^{out of} the necessities for the subsistence of themselves and families - that they / the Indians / have made several treaties with the Government of the United States, and are now convened for the purpose of renewing amicitia under them - that the last treaty makes it necessary that the money, horses, goods & provisions should be delivered to them within the country to which they are about to remove - that I will explain to them the 5th article of that treaty. (Here the Governor read the 5th article and caused it to be fully explained to them) - that their Great Father had sent a gentleman, pointing to the Disbursing Agent, to make the payment at the Painted Rock, in the Indian country - that this Office has, in addition to the sums appropriated for the present year, the sum of seven thousand dollars in money, in lieu of the goods tendered them last year and refused, to be paid to the Indians from the Portage - that the distribution of all these will be made by the Disbursing Agent under the supervision of their Father, Mr. Boyd - that I am desirous to have the payment made as speedily as possible - that I regret to hear that some of their children

have sickened and died since their coming to this place - that the weather is now good, that a change of it would have a bad effect, and that I am very anxious the payment should be made while the weather is good - that I have this day conversed with the Commissioners appointed by their Great Father to adjudicate the claims of their traders and others against them - that I have represented to them the ^{injury} propriety of longer detaining them here - that their children were getting sick, and that their families should be paid immediately and return to their homes - that the Commissioners have assented to this, but that one chief from each of the different bands in the Nation will be required to remain here until the Commissioners have closed their investigations - that I wish them now to consult together and appoint a delegation from each of their bands, to whom will be submitted the result of their examination - that as soon as the names of the heads of families can be taken and the number ascertained, the payment will be made - that the Agent will commence the transportation of the goods immediately to the Painted Rock, and that (if possible) the distribution will take place on Tuesday next, 9th Oct. - that I know the Chiefs of their bands will be willing to remain with their fathers (the Commissioners) to see justice done to their traders and half-bands - that, agreeably to the late treaty they (the Indians) are to leave the ceded Country in eight months after the ratification of it (Here the Governor read the 8th Article of the treaty and caused it to be explained to them) - that the Government has given them a large sum for their Country - that their Great Father ardently desires that they may be a prosperous and happy people (Here the Governor had explained to them distinctly the different sums payable after the present year to them, and also the sums payable in money, goods, provisions and horses at the present time) - that I have now nothing further to say to them, but if any of their Chiefs have any thing to ask, that I will patiently listen to them.

The little Soldier (Black Wolf's Son) rose & said - Father, - our Agent should know who it was that sold the land, - I touched the pen amongst the rest - I was the only one from our Country and I asked that we should have four years to remove us.

Gov. Dodge, here pointed the names of the signers of the late treaty ^{to} send to them, - and after, said - I see Karamonum Wah-Kam-man-kah, and other Chiefs before me, whose names are to the treaty; - if they have any objections to make to it, let them now come forward & state them.

Watch-hat-ty-ka (Blind DeKamie) rose and said - Father, I never do any thing of myself, but always take the advice of our white friends. Father, I live alone this - a good ways off - and when I came here, you asked me to go to Washington, - you told us it would be for our good, and I went - if I had gone with you it would not perhaps have happened as it did - I started from this place with you, father, and after we had gone some distance, we lost you. I went on, and touched the feet with those who are seated round, that went with me - Father, it did not come into my ear that we were to go and remain below Rock River - Our father told us at Washington that we were to remain four years on the land - that he had pity on our old men and women, and we came back under this belief - Father, when you ask any thing of us we always grant it, and we now ask of you to permit us to remain on this land four years - it is hard for us to leave, but much harder for our brothers from the Portage - Father, we ask this of you, for the words we have heard to day, are not what we heard at Washington - Father, many of the Chiefs went to Washington before me, & the promises then made to us have not yet been fulfilled - After I returned from Washington I told the other Chiefs what had been done - Father, - you must not think me angry because I speak loud.

Gov. Dodge - say to DeKamie that I have listened with attention to his words, but that his father (Mr. Boyd) and Mr. Clark, who were with them at Washington, say that their Great Father (Mr. Harris) told them, when they asked for four years, that if they signed the treaty they must leave the Country in eight months.

DeKamie replied, that, if their Great Father (Mr. Harris) said so it was in English and not in Indian.

Gov. Dodge - say to them that I have never spoken to them but with one tongue - that I have taken them by the hand

and held them strong - that Mr Kuyie & myself have twice been selected by them to make treaties with the Government and acted for them as we would have done for our white brethren - that in acting as their friends we had not deceived them - that I am now acting as their father, and have a solemn duty to perform towards them and the Government - that I wish to see justice done to both, as well as to the traders and frontier people - that the solemn treaties entered into with their Great Father & approved & confirmed by the Government must be fulfilled on their part - that the Gov^t must likewise fulfil the stipulations on its part - that both parties must do right - that I wish them to give ear only to good counsel, - and that if they do so they will be a prosperous & happy people, but, if they listen to bad birds who give bad advice, they will be otherwise.

Wah-kon-kah (The Snake) rose & said - Father, - all the Chiefs present are above me - Father, when our Chiefs went to see the President, I went twice with them and heard what was said - Father, it is true that the Winnebagoes have but one ear - Father, we were not speakers, but the little Soldier and myself were the first to touch the gun - Father, I heard Wan-kon-kah (Wan-kon-De-kamie) who was the last to sign the treaty, when he took up the paper, ask that four years should be given to remove in - Father, the Great Spirit above and the Evil Spirit below hears me and knows that I speak the truth - Father, I hope you will take on me (The Snake) and those that live like us (Snakes), and not crush us to the ground, but give us the four years - Father, we are willing and will consent to do what you advise us, but we wish you to take pity & grant our request -

Old Whistling Thunder rose & said - Father, listen to me - I am going to tell you what our people think - all the Chiefs and young men are glad to see you - The Great Spirit hears me and our Great Father at Washington will hear what I say - Father, we have but one voice, and whatever is said we are all agreed to - Father, it is my son that will speak to you.

Wan-kon-tsha-kee-kaw (The Dandy) rose & said - Father, we salute the Great Spirit above, and shake hands together - I,

stretch out my hand to our Great Father at Washington with
 a good heart - We call you our Great Father, although you
 are far off from him - You are for good to us among the
 white people and I am for good to our people among those
 of my own tribe - Father, it is not my wish alone that you
 hear - we have but one voice - Father, our braves, warriors and
 young men have had pity on us and let us live in peace -
 Father, what I have to say is the wish of all of us, and we will
 make it known to you immediately - I am not going to speak
 of the things on the ground, but things above it - Father, I
 hope our desires will be answered and that it will not be
 burdensome for our children - When I shake hands with you I
 shake hands with all your friends, and when you shake hands
 with me you shake hands with my friends - Father is the wish
 of us all that we should have this man (taking Mr Boileau
 by the hand) to take care of our interests - Father, I press his
 hand to my heart - he is a young man, but all our Chiefs have
 confidence in him - he has sense, and all our Chiefs believe
 he is able to take care of their interests (alluding to the exami-
 -nation of the claims against this nation by the Commissioners
 appointed for the purpose) - Father, it is the wish of all of us that
 this man should represent us and take charge of our accounts
 and see justice done to us - (Pointing to Mr John Kingie),
 he has been our Father and we know him and like him very
 much - Father, you were surprised that I did not come
 here, and I will tell you the reason - we had not canoes
 enough, nor horses, nor moccasins or other means to come, &
 the little orphan children, who cried when we came away, could
 not come so far - Father, this is the reason why I wish you
 to give what is due to the Mississippi Indians, to them, and what
 is due to the Potage Indians, to us, and Mr Kingie & Mr Clash
 will receive and distribute our proportion - Father we would be
 pleased to have this man (Mr. Lacme) to act as interpreter for
 Mr Boileau, and if you grant what we have asked, we wish
 you to appoint Mr John Roy to interpret for Messrs Kingie & Clash
 while making the distribution of the goods at the Potage - Father,
 if you grant our requests it will make glad the hearts of our

old women and orphans - Father, if our goods are distributed here to us we shall get to drinking and return home without any thing, but if distributed at the Postage they will do us good - We are happy to hear that our Great Father has fulfilled the stipulations of the treaties - Father, we have been informed that the horses purchased for us have been culled - the best taken out and bad ones sent in their place - Father, we wish that Mr. Kingin and Mr. Clark should attend to the payment for us, and we understand the hire of the boat & expenses of taking the goods to the Postage shall be paid out of our money - Father, if our people are not satisfied with the expense being taken from their money, it shall be taken from my own share - Father, you have put down on paper all that I have said - they are very fine words, and I hope our Great Father will think them so - I hope he will think of his Children - I gave him my hand as a father would give it to his Children, and I hope he will think of his children -

Father - I hope you will shut up the liquor which we are here, so that you can see us in the condition we are now - all the men of sense among us will be glad of this, but our young men will scold us for asking it - Father you are all your children, and if you grant their requests, their hearts will all be glad.

Father, the man who is in jail is a fool - he jumped out of the window the other day, and is now sick, & his friends wish to have him to take care of him and get him well.

Gov. Dodge - Say to them that I wish them to appoint one chief from each of their bands to attend before the Commissioners who are now engaged in the adjudication of claims against them - that the payment will be made at the Painted Rock, where they will all receive the proportion due to each - that they can then deliver it over to their friends to be disposed of as they shall think proper - that I am sorry to hear from their brother (the Dandy) that the good horses had been selected out & bad ones put in their stead - that I was satisfied it was not true, and that I wished to know who had told them so. -

The Old Whirling Thunder replied that it was a flying report, and had come from a woman, and that they did not believe it.

Adjourned

M. 681.
Talk with Winnebagoes
at Prairie du Chien Oct 5/38