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Re: J. H. Harsbuck

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SURPLUS PROPERTY PURCHASING AGENCY

STATE OF ARIZONA

RM. 109 ARIZONA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUILDING

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

**ROBERT O. KELLY
PURCHASING AGENT**

January 15, 1948

The Honorable Sidney P. Osborn
Governor of Arizona

My dear Governor Osborn:

Attached for your information is a copy of a report submitted to Mr. W. E. Craig, Representative, Maricopa County, as per his request.

Very truly yours,

Robert O. Kelly

Robert O. Kelly
Surplus Property Purchasing
Agent - State of Arizona

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TO: W. E. Craig, Representative
Maricopa County

SUBJECT: Report on present status of Fort Huachuca,
Arizona

FROM: Office of Surplus Property Purchasing Agent
State of Arizona

Senate Concurrent Resolution 31 of the 1st Session of the 80th Congress resolves that the War Department, Navy Department and the War Assets Administration are requested to delay until March 15, 1948, in declaring as surplus and in disposing of (1) any lands or permanent structures located thereon declared by the State, municipal, or local government, or political subdivision thereof, through its proper authorities, to be suitable and desirable for its use for educational, recreational, medical, or scientific purposes, or for its use as a public park or place of historic interest; or (2) any lands or permanent structures located thereon which would be transferred for, or devoted to such purposes or uses under the provisions of any bill or joint resolution pending in Congress if such bill or joint resolution should be enacted into law.

To date, the University of Arizona has submitted an application to the proper authorities for certain lands and buildings of the Fort Huachuca Military Reservation to be

used for educational purposes in the best public interest.

An application has also been submitted by the Arizona State Game and Fish Commission. In their application they have requested to purchase, at fair market value, approximately twenty-four thousand (24,000) acres of range land.

Of recent date, a proposal has been made by Mr. Jack Wilson, Superintendent of the Fort Grant Industrial School, along with members of the State Legislature, that the Boy's School be moved from Fort Grant To Fort Huachuca. It was further proposed that the Industrial School make application for fifteen (15) buildings and some two hundred (200) acres of land which comprises the Old Fort Area of the Military Reservation. The Industrial School would like to acquire a large permanent building for use as its Central Boy's School, plus a number of smaller permanent type buildings and residences for its personnel. At the present time, this office does not know if the proposed application has been submitted.

Regarding the plans of the Arizona National Guard, Col. Frank Fraser has informed this office that the National Guard is going to request the transfer of this installation to their organization.

This office has been further advised by the Department of Mineral Resources that regardless of what disposition is made of the subject installation, that it be thrown open for mineral prospecting and entry. As their authority they

quote the following law which makes this mandatory:

43 U. S. Code Annotated 1047

"DISPOSITION OF MINERAL LANDS. Whenever any lands containing valuable mineral deposits shall be vacated by the reduction or abandonment of any military reservation under the provisions of this chapter, the same shall be disposed of exclusively under the mineral-land laws of the United States.

(July 5, 1884, c. 214, Sec. 5, 23 Stat. 192)"

On December 11, 1947, under the provisions of Public Law 148-80th Congress the Honorable Sidney P. Osborn, Governor of Arizona directed a formal request to the Honorable Kenneth C. Royall, Secretary of War, for the transfer of the Fort Huachuca Cemetery, located on the Fort Huachuca Military Reservation, Cochise County, Arizona, including the graves and monuments contained in such cemetery, and right of access to the approach roads and appurtenance thereto, together with the responsibility for the perpetual care and maintenance thereof.

Along with the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 51 on or before January 15, 1948, the Secretary of War, Secretary of Navy, acting jointly, and the War Assets Administrator acting individually, will make a report to the Committees of the Armed Services and both the Senate and the House of Representatives, that will give the location, general

description and fair market value of Port Huachuca to these committees.

It has been the aim of this agency to bring about one single united application which would serve the purposes in the best interest of all agencies of the State which have made application.

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