Navajo
July 9th 4

Hon. Commissioner
of Indian Affairs.
Washington D.C.
Sir

At the Council, held here, yesterday, the Chiefs, and Headmen, of the tribe, were very anxious, and earnest, to have me write, and urge, the "old matter," so often urged, I suppose, by all of my predecessors, that is, the extension, of their Reservation, on the South and East sides, they said you, had recently given them more land, on the west, but that it did not help them much as it, was like all the rest of their present Reservation, very high, and mountainous, completely covered with deep snow, during the Winter half, of the year, thus rendering it impossible, from them to remain there, at that time of the year, with their sheep, and other stock. Their main subsistence and wealth is derived from their sheep and Goats and under the present conditions, they are compelled to keep most of them, in the Valleys, and on the lowlands, lying

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CV-6417-201 NN009212

outside, their lines, and on the East, and south, sides of it—

In view of the forfeiture or proposed forfeiture, of the A. and P. Rys. land grants and of the instructions contained, in circular letter, No 128 of June 7th, 84, lately received, in which it seems, Indians, are to have the preference when in possession, over all white claimants, and to avoid the many disputes, quarrels, and endless troubles, that are sure to occur, in this vicinity, in regard to lands, unless something is done, to prevent them. I wish to call your attention to these things, and to respectfully suggest, that in my judgement this is a very propitious time, to take some action, and if it should be, by you, deemed wise, and expedient, that the track of the A. and P. Ry. (about 15 miles south of present line) would be, to them, a very satisfactory, and easily defined, boundary line, for the south side, and a strip of from ten, to fifteen miles, wide, on the East side, would be sufficient for all their purposes there.

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I am aware, that this matter, has been frequently urged upon you, perhaps to often. but I believe, the times as more fully ripe, just now, than, they ever have been, as ever will be in the future, and I earnestly hope, you will give the matter your consideration.

Very Respectfully
John H. Bowman
U S Indian Agent

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CV-6417-201 NN009214