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DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
PREPARE REPLY
MAR 13 1911
FOR SECRETARY'S
SIGNATURE

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON.

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March 10, 1911.

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OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Dear Sir:

The Indian Rights Association are much concerned over the recent decision of the Secretary of the Interior denying allotments of land to the Navajo Indians on the public domain in Coconino Basin, Arizona, and I learn from Senator Curtis that your Department has agreed to reopen the case and has selected a Special Commissioner to go to the Navajo country and adjoining reservations and make a thorough examination into the conditions and report with recommendations as to what it is best to do with these Indians--whether to let them stay where they are or put them back on the reservation. I suppose it is probable that this investigation and report will have an important effect on all future dealings with the Indians in Arizona and New Mexico and as to the rights of Indians in general who have settled upon the public domain. I hope you will ask the Indian Rights Association to appoint one of their members to accompany the Special Commissioner in order that the Association may itself have a report from one of its own representatives based upon precisely the same facts and opportunity to learn the facts which will be the basis of your Commissioner's report. I am sure that such a course would contribute very much to avoid in the future the kind of misunderstandings which are undesirable

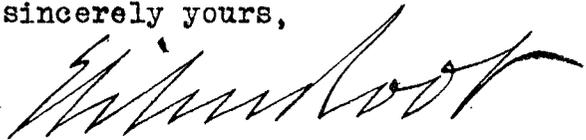
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UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON.

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and take up a great amount of official time in objections and explanations and discussions both in the executive and the legislative departments of the Government. I do not doubt, moreover, that such an association would be of material assistance to the Commissioner in aiding him to reach just conclusions.

Very sincerely yours,



The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.