

The committee to whom was referred the letter of Governor Henry, report

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REPORT.—

THAT it appears to your committee that the Indian tribes therein referred to, were invited to the treaty which was held at the mouth of the Great Miami by the commissioners of the United States, but failed either to attend thereat, or to take any notice of the messages sent them for that purpose. That they have since that time, attacked the frontiers of the state of Virginia, and are frequently committing murders and depredations on the inhabitants of the said state;—That as the attempts for preserving peace, by treaties alone, has in this instance been unsuccessful, and is not likely on any future occasion (with respect to these Indians) to have a more prosperous issue, your committee are of opinion that the only alternative left is for the United States to send a respectable force into their country, and at the same time authorise the commanding officer of such expedition, either to treat with the said Indians, or make war on them, as circumstances may require. That this mode of proceeding will not only give peace to the citizens of Virginia, who are entitled by the confederation to the protection of the United States, but will render the federal authority respectable in those countries, and be the means of preventing other tribes from disturbing the frontiers of the different states in this union. Therefore,

Resolved, That the commanding officer with troops now in the pay of the United States, do without delay, march into the country of the different tribes of Indians either on the Wabash or elsewhere who are now at war with the citizens of these United States, for the purpose of treating with the said Indians, or of making war on them, as circumstances may require.

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That the said commanding officer be authorised to apply to the executive of the state of Virginia, for such a number of militia from the district of Kentucky, not exceeding and such supplies of provisions, as he may from circumstances judge necessary; and who are hereby requested to furnish the same, deducting the amount thereof from the specie proportion of the requisitions of the year 1786.

That the said commanding officer give peace to the said Indians on no other terms than that of their making satisfaction as far as lies in their power for any damages already done, and of delivering up a sufficient number of hostages, as a security for the time to come.

Your committee observe, that as the organization of the Indian department is already under commitment, they deem it unnecessary to take any notice of it in this report.