1810

Report of the committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of allowing an additional judge to the Mississippi Territory, to reside in Madison County

United States. Congress (11th, 2nd session : 1809-1810). House
A & G Way, Washington (D.C.)

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REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED

TO INQUIRE INTO THE EXPEDIENCY

OF

ALLOWING AN ADDITIONAL JUDGE

to the

MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY,

to

RESIDE IN MADISON COUNTY,

JANUARY 25, 1810.

Read, and committed to a committee of the whole house on the bill extending the right of suffrage to the citizens of Madison county, in the Mississippi territory.

CITY OF WASHINGTON:

A. & G. WAY, PRINTERS.

1810.
I. understand that the object of this inquiry is to enable the Agent to determine the number of those who have been employed by the firm of Mr. and Mr. John Smith, and to ascertain the exact amount of their earnings. In this connection, I am also directed to investigate the working of the machinery and to report on the efficiency of the workmen. In addition, I am requested to determine the amount of the profits which have been realized during the past year.

II. The committee, or any of their agents, are authorized to seek such information as may be necessary to form an opinion on the subject matter of this inquiry, and to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information collected.

III. I hereby state that I will faithfully and impartially perform my duty as agent in this matter, and that I will make every effort to assist the committee in obtaining the information they require.

IV. This report is to be submitted to the committee within thirty days from the date of its appointment.

V. I affirm that I have performed my duties faithfully and impartially, and that I have given no cause for dissatisfaction with my conduct in this matter.
The committee to whom was referred a resolution of the house of representatives, to inquire into the expediency of allowing an additional judge to the Mississippi territory, to reside in Madison county, and to have the same powers with those granted by law, to the judge of Washington county, in said territory.

REPORT:

THAT the county of Madison, in the Mississippi territory, is situated on the north side of Tennessee river, above the great bend in said river, about four hundred miles from Natchez; that it appears to your committee, by a letter from Thomas Freeman, esquire, to the secretary of the treasury, bearing date the 21st August, 1808, that the number of families residing in said county, at that time, were estimated at about one thousand, and that emigrants from Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia, and other parts of the union, were daily coming in and viewing land for the purpose of making settlements.

Your committee are further informed, by a memorial from the legislative council and house of representatives of the said territory,
that there is no court of criminal jurisdiction in said county, having authority to punish offenders against the laws of the United States, or of the territory; that the territorial judges, who reside in the neighbourhood of Natchez, cannot perform the duties already incumbent on them, without much labor and fatigue, and that the extensive wilderness, which separates the settlements in Madison county, from those on the river Mississippi, render it impracticable for the present judges to attend for the purpose of holding courts in that county. Under these circumstances, it appears to your committee, that without the interposition of legislative aid, the inhabitants of this new and growing section of the territory will be left in a state of nature, without any competent authority to punish the violators of the peace and order of society, or to administer justice between man and man, in redressing private wrongs and injuries. To remedy the inconveniencies incident to a situation so pregnant with mischief, and so destructive of that decorum which ought to be preserved in every well regulated community, your committee respectfully submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorize the president of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to appoint an additional judge in the Mississippi territory, to reside in the county of Madison, and to have the same compensation and powers, as are granted by law to the judge of Washington county, in said territory.