

Legis: 11 Sep 3 69

Report

of Committee on that
part of the President's
message relating to a
letter purporting to have
been written by William
Blount.

July 6th
1797.

Per report of the
Committee on the
message of the President
of the 22nd Sept 1797

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6 July 1879

for make the following report.

The Committee to which was referred that part of the President's message which relates to a letter purporting to have been written by William Blount, Esq. one of the Senators from the State of Georgia, together with the paper accompanying the same having had the same under their consideration by leave to make

W. Blount Report

That Mr. Blount having feebly declined an acknowledgment, or denial of the letter imputed to him, and having failed to appear or give any satisfactory explanation respecting it, your committee suit for the original letter which accompanies the report & is in the following words (see page 1)

Insert the letter Nov. 3 1879 of the Government

Two Senators now present in the Senate have declared to the committee that they are well acquainted with the hand writing of Mr. Blount & have no doubt that the letter was written by him. Your committee have examined many letters from Mr. Blount to the Senate of which a number of which are herewith submitted as well as the letter addressed by Mr. Blount to W. Coche his colleague in the Senate & to the committee respecting the business now under consideration; I find themselves to be of the same hand writing with the letter in question. Mr. Blount has never denied this letter, but on the other hand, when the copy transmitted by him to the Senate was read in his presence on the 3^d Instant, he acknowledged in his place that he had written a letter to Lacey of which he had possessed a copy, but

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would not have decided whether the copy read was a true one -
your committee ^{is} ~~therefore~~ ^{fully persuaded} that the original letter
now produced was written ^{secretly} by Mr. Blount

They also find that the man ^{to whom it was addressed}, is
with the knowledge of Mr. Blount in the pay and employment of the U. S.
as their interpreter to the Cherokee nation of Indians & as a partner in
the public factory at Tallies Blockhouse - That ^{Blount} ~~Blount~~ who is
so often mentioned in the letter as a person who must be brought into
dishonour among the Cherokees & if possible driven from his station, is their
superintendent of Indian affairs for the U. S. among the western
Indians - ^{Blount} ~~Blount~~ is agent for the U. S. in the Cherokee nation
& ^{Blount} ~~Blount~~ one of the agents in the public factory at Tallies Blockhouse

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The plan hinted at in this extraordinary letter to be
executed under the auspices of the protest is so full of different
contradictions & conjectures that your committee at present forbear
giving any decided opinion respecting it; except that to Mr. Blount's
own mind it appeared to be inconsistent with the interests of the
U. S. & of ^{Blount} ~~Blount~~ & ^{Blount} ~~Blount~~ was therefore anxious to conceal it from
both. But when they consider his attempts to ^{Blount} ~~Blount~~ carry from
his duty as a faithful interpreter & to employ him as an injurer to
alienate the affections & confidence of the Indians from the public
affairs of the U. S. residing among them; the measures he has proposed
to execute a temper which must produce the recall or suspension
of our superintendent from the said nation; his dishonouring
advise tending to the advancement of his own popularity & ^{Blount} ~~Blount~~

at the expense & hazard of the good opinion which the Indian
 entertain of this government, & of the treaties subsisting between us
 & them; your Committee doubtless have no doubt that Mr. Blount's con-
 duct has been inconsistent with his public duty, & renders him unworthy
 of a further continuance of his present public trust in this body, &
 amounts to a high criminal misdemeanor. They therefore unani-
 mously recommend to the Senate, the adoption of the following
 resolution.

Resolved - That William Blount Esquire one of the Senators of the
 U. S. having been guilty of a high misdemeanor, entirely
 inconsistent with his public trust & duty as a Senator, he, &
 he hereby is expelled from the Senate of the U. S.

~~Note: For the message referred to in this report - see
 Foreign Relations Vol 1, p. page~~

~~The Senate will be in the N. C. Hall
 on Wednesday the 17th July 1790~~