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CALEB LYON OF LYONSDALE AND THE BOISE CLAIM

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As a result of Governor Caleb Lyon's negotiation of two treaties (Fort Boise, October 10, 1864 and Bruneau Valley, April 10, 1866) between the United States and the Boise and Bruneau Shoshoni bands, these Indians have more than a century old land claim against the United States, generally known as the Boise claim. The attached articles explaining this situation appeared in the Pacific Northwest Quarterly, October 1970, and in Idaho Yesterdays, Winter 1969-1970. In addition, the following resolution of the Boise and Bruneau Shoshoni, adopted in a meeting of ninety-six of the claimants at which Corbin Harney presided, applies to this situation:

Assembled in council at Boise, Idaho, October 25, 1974, the Boise and Bruneau Shoshoni respectfully represent that:

1. On October 10, 1864, the governor of Idaho, representing the United States of America as superintendent of Indian affairs for Idaho, and the Boise Shoshoni Indian Nation signed the Treaty of Fort Boise, providing for cession to the United States of Boise Valley and surrounding lands thirty miles on each side of the river.
2. On April 10, 1866, the governor of Idaho and the Bruneau Shoshoni Nation concluded and signed a similar treaty providing for cession of the Owyhee mines and certain Snake and Bruneau river valley lands to the United States.
3. After more than a century, the United States Senate has not gotten around to ratifying these treaties.
4. The United States of America still has not obtained Indian title to the Boise and Bruneau lands of southwestern Idaho, although Caleb Lyon of Lyonsdale, governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for Idaho, solemnly promised us that this matter would be attended to.

Therefore, we urge that the Idaho congressional delegation take whatever action may be necessary to correct this long standing injustice.

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