

BEFORE THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

THE BLACKFEET AND GROS VENTRE TRIBES,)
 et al.,)
 Petitioners,)
)
 THE ASSINIBOINE TRIBES OF INDIANS)
 Residing upon the Fort Belknap)
 and Fort Peck Reservations,)
 Montana, and THE SIOUX TRIBE OF)
 THE FORT PECK RESERVATION,)
 Montana,)
 Intervenor,)
)
 v.)
)
 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
 Defendant.)

Docket No. 279-A

ORDER ALLOWING ATTORNEYS' FEES

Upon consideration of the petition of September 27, 1968 of the attorney of record for the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes, tribal petitioners herein, for allowance of attorneys' fees to the contract attorneys equivalent to ten per centum (10%) of the final judgment of \$8,679,814.92 entered herein on August 23, 1968 in favor of the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes, and the defendant having been served a copy of said petition and not objecting thereto, the Commission has found and concluded from the record in the case that:

1. Final judgment was entered in this docket in favor of the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes on August 23, 1968 in the amount of \$8,679,814.92, and as of this date no further proceedings are required to terminate the issues involved in this docket except the awarding of attorneys' fees and expenses.

2. The attorneys for the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes are petitioning for the allowance of attorneys' fees under the following approved attorney contracts:

a) Contract No. I-1-ind. 17498, dated March 4, 1942, between the Blackfeet Tribe and Ernest L. Wilkinson, and approved April 17, 1942 for a period of ten years from the date of approval.

This contract was extended several times, the last approved extension to April 16, 1967. Assignment of this contract to the law firm of Wilkinson, Cragun and Barker was approved on March 23, 1962. This contract provided for payment of a retainer fee of \$5,000.00 to Ernest L. Wilkinson, with the attorney's compensation to be fixed at ten per centum (10%) of any and all sums received for the Indians less the \$5,000.00 retainer.

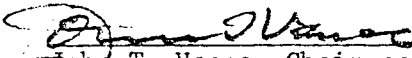
b) Contract No. 14-20-0250-3774, dated June 12, 1967 between the Blackfeet Tribe and the law firm of Wilkinson, Cragun and Barker covering the claims prosecuted in this docket, approved November 14, 1967 for a five-year period from the date of approval. This contract provides for compensation to the attorney to be fixed at ten per centum (10%) of any and all sums received for the Indians less the \$5,000.00 retainer paid to Ernest L. Wilkinson under the prior contract, No. I-1-ind. 17498.

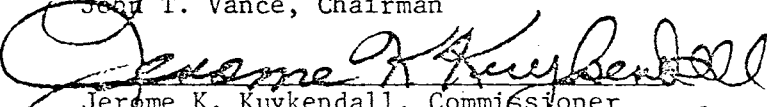
3. Pursuant to the terms of the above approved attorney contracts, the contract attorneys for the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes have faithfully rendered valuable legal services to the said Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes in the successful prosecution of the claims asserted in this docket and they are entitled to the attorneys' fees as requested in their petition.

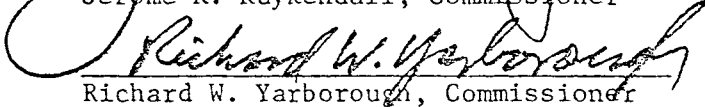
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that out of the final judgment of \$8,679,814.92 entered in this docket on August 23, 1968, the contract attorneys for the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes, as described above be, and the same are hereby, awarded the sum of \$867,981.00 for the attorney services rendered herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that from the sum of \$867,981.00 there shall be deducted the sum of \$5,000.00 previously paid to the attorneys as a retainer, leaving a net amount of \$862,981.00 which shall be paid to John W. Cragun, Attorney of Record, acting on behalf of Wilkinson, Cragun and Barker, the contract attorneys.

Dated at Washington, D. C., this 18th day of October, 1968.


John T. Vance, Chairman


Jerome K. Kuykendall, Commissioner


Richard W. Yarborough, Commissioner