THE CONTINUING CONFLICT OVER LAND

In 1791, warriors of the northwestern Indian confederacy, led by the Miami war chief Little Turtle and the Shawnee Blue Jacket, inflicted a smashing defeat on the United States, destroying an American army under General Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory. In the wake of that defeat the United States dispatched commissioners to meet with the Indians and negotiate a settlement, but the Americans would not agree to the Indian demand that the Ohio River remain the boundary to their lands.

In a general council held at the foot of the Miami Rapids in northwestern Ohio in August 1793, delegates from the Wyandots, Seven Nations of Canada, Delawares, Shawnees, Miamis, Ottawas, Chippewas, Senecas, Potawatomis, Conoys, Munsees, Nanticoke, Mahicans, Mississagukes, Creeks, and Cherokee met with the American commissioners. The Indian speakers reviewed the history of their relations with the United States, showing how past treaties had failed to stop white expansion onto their lands, and then offered their own solution to the problem.

INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Proposal to Maintain Indian Lands

1793

Brothers;—

Money, to us, is of no value, & to most of us unknown, and as no consideration whatever can induce us to sell the lands on which we get sustenance for our women and children; we hope we may be allowed to point out a mode by which your settlers may be easily removed, and peace thereby obtained.

Brothers;—

We know that these settlers are poor, or they would never have ventured to live in a country which have been in continual trouble even since they crossed the Ohio; divide therefore this large sum of money which you have

NOTES

By the Court, William J. Clinton, do you have trouble understanding the Court's decision? We would be happy to explain it further. Do you agree with the Court's decision? If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. We are here to help.

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