ALS  B.H. Reeves
To:  Peter Hagner

Referring to your letter of 1-20-1833 to Mr. Sibley relating to the compensation to be allowed the Commissioners, I have to say that I was employed in the actual discharge of the duties of my commission, 150 days, that I charge the United States $8 per day for every day so employed.

As Congress has, in my apprehension, fully settled this point by appropriating money to pay the balance claimed by the Commissioners I cannot perceive why I ought to consent to any reduction of the compensation.

Copy of my account enclosed.

(Rough draft in hand of Sibley)
In your letter to Mr. Sibley, of the 29th April 1833, you communicated your opinion (dated on the 18th of the same month) given by Mr. Clay, Atty. General, in relation to the compensation to be allowed the Commissioners who were appointed under the Act of Congress of 3 March 1819, to make and publish a Road to New Mexico, and you require statements of the accounts of said Commissioners for their pay to be made out and transmitted to you in conformity with the opinion referred to, copies of which you forwarded to Mr. Sibley. If which you have been furnished me in answer to this call I have to say that I was employed in the actual despatch of the duties of my commission, four hundred and fifty days — that I consider myself having been engaged during the whole of that time in the despatch of the two-fold duties imposed by the Instructions from the War Dept. and I charge the United States Eight Dollars per day for every day I employed during the time from the commencement made on December 27th, 1837 to the War Dept. It is distinctly stated that the expenditures to
To Benjamin H. Bates,

For Services as Commissioner under the Act of Congress of 3d March 1825, for Opening and a Road from the Western frontier of Missouri, to the Confluence of Red River, 450 days, at 75 dollars per day, $3000.

And I certify on honor that this total is just, true, and to the Number of days charged, and to the rate per day, according to my understanding of the instructions from the War Dept., for the pay of the Commissioner, at the time engaged to perform the terms aforesaid.

B. H. Bates,
 late Commissary.

Howard County,
Feb. 24, 1834.