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1871 March 7: Memo accompanying application forms and text of law providing payment for Southern War Claims, from J. W. Smith, Washington, D.C.

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Recommended Citation

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WASHINGTON D. C., *March 7, 1871.*

SIR: You will receive herewith the text of the law providing payment for Southern War Claims, together with proper blanks for applications. I shall be happy to act as attorney in any claims of that character that you may have to prosecute before the Board, either for yourself or others; the fees in the latter cases to be equally divided between us. Having been for several years Chief Clerk of the 2d Comptroller's Office, wherein my business was to write decisions on war claims, I was made familiar with the whole subject. As the claims first filed will be the first paid, it is highly important that the applications be filed as soon as possible. All claims, not filed before March 4, 1873, will be barred. This law will be construed, I apprehend, to include claims for pay for all kinds of property taken for the use of the Quartermasters, Commissaries, Engineers, and Medical Arms of the service, such as fuel, lumber, horses, mules, wagons, drugs, timber for forts, all kinds of provender for man and beast, rent for the occupation of houses and lands, &c., &c. Full instructions given in particular cases upon receipt of letters detailing the facts. Please hand such of the accompanying blanks as you do not want to persons whom you know to be interested in the subject. References given whenever desired. Fees reasonable.

Respectfully,

J. W. SMITH.