Executive Office

Omaha, Nebraska, April 13, 1863

Maj. Genl. P. H. Barnard,
Brig. Genl. in Chief

Genl.

On the 11th inst. Col. E. A. Creighton, chief of the Pacific Telegraph line, joined me in a dispatch to you, asking you to retain the Nebraska Cavalry on the east side of the Missouri River. The order is so particular as to what troops are placed here as we were to be certain to have some. And the Second Cavalry being already on the east side of Nebraska side, as thought it would suit better to have them remain there & call others from a road. If these troops are sent on to the east side and if the Regular troops at Ft. Kearney & Laramie are called away (and I am told that such is the fact) then, as I understand it, there will be less than four hundred troops left to protect not only our Northern
I wrote (for which this copy as we were informed by the officer who accompanied the party of it was officially intended) but also the telegraph & stage lines, and the Indian scouts east of the Mountains. I hope it may be said by some that the scouts can & should have an overland escort of one company, but that company will not be ready to move before the middle of June, at least they can not move so in former years, and by that time there will be a line of scouts at least five hundred miles in length. So it will be a matter of necessity for the company to fully protect itself in going to the Missouri River to arrive without being surprised.

When I was in Washington a few weeks ago, I learned from the Lieut. of War & his assistants that it was in contemplation to send a force this spring up the Missouri River. I wanted to have a talk with you on the above subject and wanted to send the Instructions for the

True, I am not particularly, but each time I found you so closely engaged with others that I saw I up.

If our troops are sent across the river (and I am informed that there is now an order from you to that effect) I greatly fear that our Northern settlers will be greatly disturbed, if not entirely broken up. Our friends settlers are much more numerous & more easily excited now than they were before the recent threats of the Contemplated Movement against the Indians.

I hope, and, indeed, that you will so arrange your instructions as to allow at least a part of the army to march on the right side of the river. Before this, Craig is now setting the Nebraska Cavalry & settlers preparing to comply with the order to cross the river & have the troops sent to Fort Leavenworth at Kansas City. He will continue to keep them troops in any part of them on the left side of the Missouri, an order of the effect should be read by you at once by telegraph.
To Mr. Curtis, otherwise the heavy trouble of crossing and recovering will have to be met all of which can be saved if ordered soon.

Hoping to have a prompt response from you on this subject.

I am, truly respectfully yours,

Henry Searles,
Gov. Nebraska.