

From William Hutchinson and H. Miles Moore to Daniel Woodson and Col. Cook

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Lawrence K.T.

Sept[.] 2 1856.

To His Excley. D.A. Woodson and Col. Cook.

Gentlemen:

Circumstances that we doubtless mutually deplore, have made it our duty to confer together several times during the last two weeks, relative to our own security and protection. In conformity with all law and justice, even in times of war, such deputations have been welcome, and allowed to return without molestations, until last Thursday. We then sent S. Sutherland, G.W. Hutchinson and a young man from Leavenworth to you to recite you the condition of our teams, their drivers, and 8 passengers, we sent to Leavenworth last Tuesday, in accordance with your own suggestion (or that of Col. Johnson) and the outrages they have since suffered, you are probably familiar with. We learn with much regret that after Mssrs[.] Sutherland and Hutchinson had conferred with Gov. Woodson, they were taken just in front of his office by a mob, and by them are still retained in Lecompton. We have not learned as any legal charges are pressed against them, and we now ask of you why they are retained, whether merely as prisoners of war, and whether you thereby

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say to us that civil war now exists. Unless you take this ground, we claim of you; their immediate and unconditional release.

We send their [wives?] to-day as bearers of this note, and as a consolation for the imprisoned, and would ask of you most respectfully, to grant them such an escort, or protection while among you or near your town, as their own safety may require.

In behalf of the Kansas State Central Committee

Wm[.] Hutchinson

H. Miles Moore