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## Original Text

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“Your Great Father knows the game is every year becoming scarcer and will soon be gone. When the game is gone, What will you do? You must cultivate the ground or starve. The Otoes and Omahaws with whom I have talked have agreed to give up the chase, work on their lands, build themselves log houses, raise cattle, corn, beans, potatoes, squashes and other things. You are nearer the buffaloe than they are; but the buffaloe will soon be a great distance from you. You will I am sure be happier at home than at the chase, if you can have enough to eat.”

Edward A. Ellsworth, “Council with the Pawnee Nation (of the Platte River),” Ratified Treaty No. 190, Documents Relating to the Negotiation of the Treaty of October 9, 1833, with the Pawnee Indians (October 9, 1833), 4-10

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Bison hunting on the plains was critical to the Pawnee’s way of life. Depending on the season, communities would focus on horticulture in their villages or travel west to hunt. Encroachments by white settlers and other Indian tribes on the Pawnee hunting grounds created a severely diminished bison population. A growing market for bison products and the use of horses and firearms further contributed to the near extinction of bison in the late nineteenth century. In official government reports, the military also spoke of destroying the bison as a way to eliminate the major food source of Plains tribes.