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## Paraphrased Text

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The United States president knows that the buffalo will soon be gone. When the buffalo are gone you will have to abandon the hunt and become farmers or you will starve. Other tribes have agreed to give up hunting and become farmers. Your tribe is closer to the buffalo herds; but the buffalo will soon be gone. Then you will be happy that you decided to become farmers because you will have enough food 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.