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“Grant gave negotiation one more try. He appointed a commission to hold a grand council on the Great Sioux Reservation and buy mining rights to the Black Hills...The grand council convened that September but quickly foundered. Crazy Horse refused to come. So did Sitting Bull; when the commission sent a messenger to talk to him, he [Sitting Bull] picked up a pinch of dirt and said,

“I do not want to sell or lease any land to the government—not even as much as this.”

Peter Cozzens, “President Grant’s Uncivil War,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, November 2016

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Peter Cozzens’s article traces President Grant’s efforts to take the Black Hills from the Sioux Nation.