

Oklahoma State Senate

STATE CAPITOL

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA



January 23, 1963

*Interview
Indian*
*Handled by
telephone &
personal visit*

Honorable A. S. Mike Monroney
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

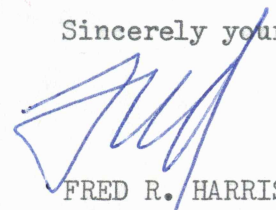
Dear Senator Monroney:

I appreciate your letter of January 18, in response to the letter I wrote you at the request of the Comanche Indian Tribe.

Time often takes care of many problems. This may be the case here. The General Council of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Tribes has since voted to void the present tribal constitution and additional action by them may take care of the situation I wrote you about. There is nothing that needs to be done by you at this time.

I, personally, appreciate your interest. Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,


FRED R. HARRIS
State Senator

FRH:ns

Oklahoma State Senate

STATE CAPITOL

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA



January 26, 1963

Honorable A. S. Mike Monroney
Member, United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Monroney:

This is to introduce two very good friends of mine and yours, Robert Coffee, Lawton, and Lawrence Tomah, Jr., Walters, who are respected men of ability and character in their local communities and among the members of the Comanche Indian tribe.

I would, personally, appreciate any courtesies and assistance extended them by you. Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred R. Harris".

Fred R. Harris

FRH/ds

Oklahoma State Senate

STATE CAPITOL

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA



*Research
what it would
entail - pros +
cons - Dept. view*

January 14, 1963

Honorable A.S. "Mike" Monroney
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Monroney:

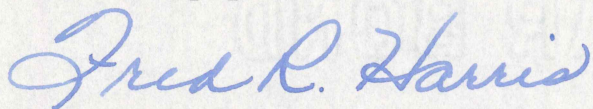
I met this past week with a good many leaders of the Comanche Indian Tribe. As you know, this tribe and the Kiowa Indian Tribe are divided into two groups. The group I have always been close with and the one I met with is the progressive group of the Comanches. They are and have been for many years most interested in separating the Comanche Indian Tribe off by itself with its own separate organization. One time there was a vote to do this, but the result wasn't approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs because of some technical objections made, although the election was conducted by the Bureau.

These local Indians wanted me to write you to see if you would draft and handle legislation which would by law separate the Comanche Indian Tribe from the Kiowas and Apaches, would authorize and direct the Secretary of Interior to divide tribal funds in the hands of the Secretary of Interior or the Treasurer being held for the credit of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Tribes, by dividing them according to the ratio of the number of members of each tribe to the total number of members of the three tribes, authorizing and directing the Secretary of Interior to partition lands held in common in kind or to sell the same and divide the proceeds or to continue to hold them in common.

I would appreciate it very much if you would check into this matter and let me know whether or not you would be able to draft and handle such legislation. It would be doing a real service for all

these Indians, including those who would object. The Bureau, I think, would give you their quiet approval, although I think they are afraid to do anything openly. I would appreciate hearing from you on this as soon as you have had time to look into it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred R. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FRED R. HARRIS

FRH/hb

☐

Gay - Dept. of Interior

Gen. Counsel Meeting — "pro-separatist"
voted out their constitution (Jan. 19) If meeting
is found legal, the difficulties would
be ironed out.

Separation would be like gasoline on
a fire. The "anti-separatists" would
join w/ Kiowa & Apache & out-vote
them.

Cross one bridge at a time. Don't
rush separation issue now.

In 1956, the tribe voted in favor of
separation. Comanches never were
able to come up w/ a constitution.

No clear cut majority.

(Lawrence Poma
Robert Coffey
Yale Pamequait)

Our letter has been sent to
the field for a report.

Faction is arguing for greater tribal
independence.

Some feel separation is a step
toward - termination

joined since 1868 - separation
is a pretty drastic thing.

There is an intermixture - What
happens to the mixed-bloods?

Validity of meeting — cancellation.

5 committee backing gen. Counsel.

Gen Counsel called for 19th — can 5 business committee call it off 24 hrs. before meeting.

Anti-separatists have control of business committee.

150 at gen. Counsel — 125 voted.

Petition opposing — the action can be expected — alleging the Bureau is trying to force it on them.

January 18, 1963

Arthur
Indur

Hon. Fred Harris
Oklahoma State Senate
State Capitol
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

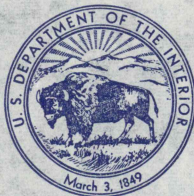
Dear Fred:

I have your letter of January 14 and will make a preliminary check here to try to determine what our prospects would be for passage of a bill giving the Comanche Indian Tribe separate and independent status from the Kiowas and Apaches.

I will be in touch with you.

With very best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REPLY REFER TO
Real Prop. Mgmt.
Records

Butler
Shannon

JAN 22 1963

✓
Mr. Fred R. Harris
Harris & Newcombe
Suite 306 Security Bank Building
Lawton, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Harris:

Upon Senator Mike Monroney's request, we are sending you certified copies of the documents requested in your letter of January 11 pertaining to certain Kiowa estates, and billing the Senator's Office. The total cost of the copies is \$17.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) LaFollette Butler

FOR

Chief, Branch of
Real Property Management

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Mike Monroney
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.