

February 2, 1963

*Int-
Indians
(Cherokees)*

Hon. Paul M. Niebell
Attorney at Law
1201 Nineteenth Street, NW
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Paul:

I have your telegram of February 1, saying that by coming there I could help on the attorney fee and other Cherokee matters. I am aware that my bothering you with phone calls has brought this about. I cannot possibly come there now.

Paul, I regret to keep harping that Interior's needless delay has harmed me and my family. I have been borrowing from friends and hanging by my eyelids for many months, and I do not intend to borrow any more. I have been unable to work because of the day to day expectancy in the matter. I will not pretend any longer, and now, after 35 years in the practice of law, and after having been arbitrarily deprived of that which I believe we had earned, I am taking down my shingle. I can't pay my bills. We are entitled to a decision on the request of Chief Keeler, and the late Senator Kerr, and Senator Monroney and Congressman Edmondson, and until we get it, I'll wait at home.

Dennis is in the hospital, and George has 4 minor children to care for, and is not too well. Mrs. Pierce and I are selling everything we have, except my books to repay loans from friends who trusted me.

I consider the delay of Interior as an unjustifiable attack on Chief Keeler and the Cherokees, and can see it in no other light. I am convinced that Secretary Udall is not to blame. I am certain, however, that when his Solicitor decides to turn down the request of Chief Keeler, he will see to it that the action rests upon legal and not arbitrary grounds.

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Paul M. Niebell
Page 2
February 2, 1963

I have been reluctant to disturb the mind of the
Cherokees about this matter, but I deeply resent the
palpable effort of Interior to drive a wedge between
our clients and their attorneys.

Sincerely yours,

Earl Boyd Pierce

Earl Boyd Pierce
Cherokee Tribal Attorney

EBP/pb

*311 Metropolitan Bldg.
Muskegon*

cc: Senator Monroney

Senator J. Howard Edmondson

Congressman Edmondson

Chief Keeler

Mr. Bushyhead

Mr. Norvell

Mr. Ballard

C
O
P
Y