

*For Senator Monroney*

*Inv.  
Indians*

May 8, 1963

*311 Metro. Bldg.  
Muskogee*

Hon. Will J. Pitner  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Federal Building  
Anadarko, Oklahoma

Re: Chilocco School Lands

Dear Mr. Pitner:

On November 21, 1962, by letter, addressed to former Area Director Holmes, at Muskogee, (photocopy attached), the legislative history of the Chilocco School Lands was discussed, and the point made that the Cherokee Nation is interested in the restitution of title by re-purchase of that portion which the Department has deemed and declared to be excess and surplus to the needs of the educational institution at Chilocco. In the closing paragraph of the letter, a conditional offer was made, indicating that the Nation was ready and willing to re-imburse the United States for said excess lands by payment to the Government of the sum of money equal to the aggregate amount the Nation has received for the lands covered by Public Law 87-284. We then incorrectly understood that Congress had provided for the disposal of all excess Chilocco lands. We now understand that only two 5 acre homesteads were covered by that Statute, although 2,700 acres was then, and is now considered as surplus and excess of educational needs.

Your colleague, Hon. Virgil N. Harrington, our Area Director, has suggested that because these lands are under the jurisdiction of your office any re-purchase proposal of the Cherokee Nation should be discussed with you. We therefore most respectfully tender to the United States of America, subject to the approval of the Principal Chief and the Executive Committee of the Cherokee Nation, and of your Department, a sum of money equal to the total amount heretofore paid by the United States to the Cherokee Nation for said excess Chilocco School Lands, to be paid whenever title and possession to same is ready for delivery in accordance with appropriate action by the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

*Earl Boyd Pierce*

Earl Boyd Pierce  
General Counsel for the Cherokee Nation

EBP/pb

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cc: United States Senator A. S. Mike Monroney  
United States Senator J. Howard Edmondson  
United States Congressman Ed Edmondson  
Principal Chief W. W. Keeler  
Area Director Virgil N. Harrington  
Mr. Jesse L. Ballard

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