

Sept. 25, 1962

*Ans.  
Indians*

Mr. Paul Pitts  
Principal Chief  
Osage Tribal Council  
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Dear Chief Pitts:

The enclosed letter from the Chief Commissioner, Indian Claims Commission, states that a decision should be finished and issued on the Osage claim before long. However, he is unable to say exactly when since at least two of the Commissioners have not expressed their views on the Opinion and Findings.

It was a pleasure to check into this for you, and if I can be of further service at any time, please let me know.

With best regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure



September 24, 1962

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

Dear Mike:

Docket No. 105, entitled The Osage Nation of Indians v. The United States, has been assigned and the Findings of Fact and the Opinion are now being considered in conference by the three Commissioners. The parties involved were advised sometime back that additional evidence had been searched out by the Commission, which was apparently not satisfied at that stage with the evidence that had been presented. This additional evidence is also under consideration. The claim is a large one and has been receiving some rather intense study. The decision should be finished and issued before long. Just how long, I do not know because at least two of the Commissioners have not expressed their views on the Opinion and Findings as presented by the third member.

We sometimes have difficulty with these cases which date as far back as 1808 as this case does. The evidence at best is rather sketchy and we have great difficulty in arriving at what would be considered an equitable decision to both the Indians and to the United States. We have many such cases and that is one reason, among others, why our decisions do not come out as rapidly as one might expect. Nevertheless, I assure you that we will do everything in our power to get this decision out at an early date.

I appreciate your inquiry and thank you for giving us an opportunity to respond on this matter.

Sincerely,

Arthur V. Watkins  
Chief Commissioner

AVW/1

P.S.: Docket No. 105, above mentioned, is an Osage claim for land in the Missouri and Arkansas area. They have other claims for land in Oklahoma and Kansas which have not yet reached the trial stage.



Sept. 11, 1962

Mr. Paul Pitts  
Principal Chief  
Osage Tribal Council  
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Dear Chief Pitts:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your inquiry about the status of the Osage claim which is now before the Indian Claims Commission, identified as Docket No. 105.

It will be a pleasure to try to determine when the Commission expects to reach a decision on the claim, and I will write to you again just as soon as I have some information to report.

With best regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Hon. A. S. Mike Monroney  
United States Senate  
Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Monroney:

The Osage Tribal Council for and in behalf of the Osage Tribe of Indians, is quite anxious to secure information concerning the status of an Osage claim now pending before the Indian Claims Commission identified as Docket No. 105. While it would not be acceptable procedural practice for the Tribe's attorneys to address the Commission in this matter, it is hoped that your office may be able to obtain information as to the date when the Tribe might expect a decision on the present issue in Docket 105.

Docket 105 entitled The Osage Nation of Indians vs. The United States was heard before the Commission in April 1960. Subsequently, the Osage Tribe's attorneys filed their brief in July 1960 and in January 1961 filed their reply brief. Both the petitioner and the defendant indicated that they would not move for oral argument and the Commission informally assented to this. There was no further information concerning this case until January 1962 when one of the Tribe's attorneys learned that the Commission had decided to call for oral arguments. Accordingly, a date for oral argument was agreed upon and such oral argument in Docket 105 was had February 5 and 6, 1962.

Almost 6 months have passed since oral argument, 17 months since briefs were submitted, and over 2 years since the case was presented and we still have received no opinion. This case stands on its own merits by virtue of the Treaty of 1808 and the opinion in this matter could effect the course of future Osage claims. The Osage people have an intense interest in this claim and the tribal members and the Council feel they are entitled to a more diligent attention to this matter by the Indian Claims Commission.



Hon. A. S. Mike Monroney

Any information you can secure as to when the Osage Tribe may expect an opinion in Docket 105 now pending before the Indian Claims Commission will be greatly appreciated.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Pitts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent than the last name "Pitts".

Paul Pitts  
Principal Chief



PAUL PITTS  
CHIEF

CHARLES WHITEHORN  
ASSISTANT CHIEF

GALE ALBERTY  
SECRETARY



OSAGE TRIBAL COUNCIL

PAWHUSKA, OKLAHOMA

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

GEORGE BACONRIND  
W. OWEN COOPER  
JAMES A. KENNEDY  
GEORGE V. LABADIE, SR.  
D. E. (BILL) MARTIN  
EDWARD RED EAGLE  
JOE REVELETTE  
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Indian  
Claims Commission

SEP 7 - 1962

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United States Senate  
Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

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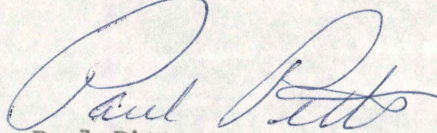


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