

January 9, 1963

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Mr. C. C. Victory
416 West Downing
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Victory:

You will recall that you wrote me last month regarding improvements at the PHS Indian Hospital, Tahlequah, and the sanitary program in Cherokee and Adair Counties.

The attached letter from the Chief, Division of Indian Health, outlines the plans for improving the Tahlequah hospital, and informs me that a trained and experienced sanitarian will be assigned to the Cherokee area this month to facilitate progress in sanitation facilities construction activities.

With best regards and good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service
Washington 25, D. C.

JAN 8 1963

Dear Senator Monroney:

This is in reply to your referral on December 10, 1962, of a copy of a communication from Mr. C. C. Victory, Chairman of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians of Oklahoma.

We feel that the committee of which Mr. Victory is chairman has done a commendable job of handling the problems that have come to their attention. We wish to assure Mr. Victory that the Public Health Service does not intend for the Five Civilized Tribes to assume complete responsibility for their health program, as evidenced by the additional construction at Tahlequah.

With respect to the construction program at Tahlequah, Mr. Victory will be interested to know that a total of \$180,500 was appropriated for fiscal years 1960 through 1963 for planning and construction. Bids for construction were opened on October 18, 1962 in the Branch of Plant Design and Construction, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Based upon the amount of the low bid, costs for planning, supervision of the work, other technical services and equipment, it was estimated that the total cost of the project would amount to \$282,150. This estimated cost was \$101,650 in excess of the funds available for the project.

The Tahlequah project is currently undergoing review to determine whether it will be possible to reduce the scope of the work so that it can be accomplished within available funds, or whether it will be necessary to request additional funds.

Regarding the sanitation facilities construction matter mentioned in Mr. Victory's letter, we can advise you that during January 1963, a trained and experienced sanitarian will be assigned to the Cherokee area of Oklahoma to facilitate progress in sanitation facilities construction activities.

The points raised regarding the use of well casing larger than 4 inches are being referred to the Area Sanitary Engineer in Oklahoma City, with instructions that he review the well drilling experience in this area of the State. If amendments to specifications are found necessary, they will be incorporated in future construction contracts.

It is anticipated that the present program of providing health services at Tahlequah will continue as usual.

The copy of Mr. Victory's letter is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Carruth J. Wagner, M. D.
Assistant Surgeon General
Chief, Division of Indian Health

Honorable A. S. Mike Monroney
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

December 10, 1962

Mr. C. C. Victory
416 West Downing
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Victory:

In the absence of Senator Monroney, I wish to acknowledge receipt of copies of correspondence regarding improvements at the PHS Indian Hospital, Tahlequah, and the sanitary program in Cherokee and Adair Counties.

Senator Monroney will be pleased to do all he can to assist on these matters, and he will write you to report what he has been able to accomplish.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Yocum
Executive Secretary

W. A. Keeler, Principal Chief
of the Cherokee Nation.
708 Phillips Building,
Martinsville, Oklahoma.

Dear Chief:

We stand to lose our building project at H E W Indian hospital at Tablecush, Oklahoma (Formerly W.W. Hastings hospital) for which we have worked so hard for the past five years and is sorely needed unless we get immediate action. This project consists of a new clinic building for out-patient care and needed repairs on the old buildings. It seems there is a difference of about \$20,000.00 between architects estimates and bids and the Bureau of the budget refuses this additional sum. Understand the possibly \$165,000.00 estimate is approved and in the budget. Our problem \$20,000.00 from some source, Bureau of the budget, revision of architects estimate, shift of funds within Division of Indian Health NPHS, or other means but by all means \$20,000.00. Indian health needs in eastern Oklahoma will continue to suffer if we fail this project.

PLEASE DON'T LET US DOWN FROM ALL AGENTS.

C.C. Victory, Chairman H E W Committee,
Inter-Tribal Council P.C.T.

Dear Friend Mike: We just cannot afford to lose this hospital project. Please put pressure where it will count most. I think Dr. Wagner head of Division of Indian health will get the job done with enough pressure. We also need his help in straightening out our Sanitary program in Cherokee and Adair counties under PL 86-121. I have written him see my letter (copy)

C.C. Victory