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IN OKLAHOMA CITY INDIAN HEALTH AREA

December 17, 1963

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U. S. Department of
Health, Education and Welfare
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

Indians

Appointment of the Honorable Earl Welch, Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, to the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Indian Health was announced today by the Public Health Service. The appointment is for a four year term ending in 1967.

Justice Welch has served on the Oklahoma Supreme Court for 30 years, frequently as Chief Justice, has spent 15 years in private practice of law and six as a District Judge in Oklahoma. He is a member of the Chickasaw Indian Tribe and represents the third of four generations of a family in the legal profession. Both his grandfather and father practiced law in Indian Territory and after Statehood.

He was the first president of the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma and again served in that capacity in 1961-62. He also served on the Chickasaw Tribe's Governor's Advisory Council continuously from 1939 until the recent death of Governor Floyd Maytubby, whom he succeeds in the Surgeon General's Committee post.

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Born near Wister in Southeastern Oklahoma when it was Indian Territory, Justice Welch's home town is Antlers, where he was one of the city's early mayors. He attended Harley Institute, an Indian boarding school near Tishomingo, Oklahoma; Hargrove College at Ardmore, and received his law degree from the University of Oklahoma. He was admitted to the Oklahoma bar in 1911 and entered practice in Antlers.

Justice Welch's appointment completes the complement of the nine-member committee which advises the Public Health Service on its activities to improve and expand medical care and health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Other committee members are: Robert B. Atwood, Editor and Publisher of the Anchorage (Alaska) Daily Times; Dr. Harry V. Gibson, Industry Physician, Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company, Las Vegas, Nevada; Pete Homer, Chairman of the Colorado Ricer Indian Tribes, Parker, Arizona; Dr. Robert B. Howard, Dean, College of Medical Sciences, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Dr. James E. Perkins, Managing Director, National Tuberculosis Association, New York City; Dr. James W. Sampson, Wyoming State Director of Public Health, Cheyenne; Dr. James H. Schaeffer, Tuberculosis Consultant to the Public Health Service and private practitioner, Billings, Montana; and Hans Walker, Jr., Executive Director, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, New Town, North Dakota.