



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CARL ALBERT
RECEIVED
MAR 2 1951
2nd Dist- Oklahoma

MAR - 1 1951

My dear Mr. Albert:

Reference is made to your letter of February 6, inquiring about the awards made to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians by the Indian Claims Commission. The Congress appropriated money for these on January 6, 1951, the sum of \$2,587,835.47 for the Choctaw Nation and \$902,008.11 for the Chickasaw Nation.

While it is likely that many of the enrollees of these tribes expect a distribution of the awards, the Department has not yet formulated plans for their use and disposition. Because of the high cost of making payments involving heirship determinations for more than one-half of the membership, it is believed that a distribution should include all of the assets of the respective tribes. Within the next few months the Choctaw Indians will vote on the question of accepting a sum of money in lieu of annuities made to the tribe under provisions of certain treaties. The commuted sum, when appropriated, would be distributed to members. It would be advisable, therefore, in order to avoid the cost of making two payments, to delay the distribution of the funds recently credited to the Choctaw Nation until the money in lieu of annuities is also available.

I shall be glad to inform you when plans for the use of the judgment funds are proposed.

Sincerely yours,

Wale E. Doty

Assistant

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Carl Albert

House of Representatives

Third District

February 6, 1951

Hon. Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of Interior Department

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I receive many inquiries from the members of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribes of Indians, concerning the award made to them by the Indian Claims Commission in the sum of \$3,500,000, which money has already been appropriated by the Congress.

It is my understanding that some 25,000 Indians or their heirs probably will share in these payments, estimated at \$150 to \$200 apiece.

I would appreciate being advised as to the manner in which the Interior Department proposes to handle this matter.

Sincerely yours,

CA:m

CARL ALBERT, M. C.
Third District, Oklahoma



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(sgd) Dale E. Doty

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