

Public Health Service John Spaan

February 28, 1967

Mr. Lon Kile
114 North Second Street
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

Dear Lon:

Thank you very much for your good letter of February 23 recommending Mr. John Spaan for the Executive Officer position in the Oklahoma City Area Office of the Public Health Service's Division of Indian Health.

As you may know, we have also strongly recommended Mr. Spaan for this position to Dr. E. S. Rabeau, Director of the Division of Indian Health, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, the Surgeon General, the White House and the Civil Service Commission. We have followed up with personal calls and visits to several Public Health Service officials here on the matter.

While we have been advised an assignment had been made prior to our recommendations, we have continued to recommend Mr. Spaan in case there should be a change in the current situation.

We'll be glad to talk with Chief Belvin about this, and we'll look forward to seeing him.

It was good to hear from you, Lon. I deeply appreciate your thoughts on this important matter. We'll be glad to continue to do what we can.

Our very best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M. C.
Third District, Oklahoma

CA/hn

LAW OFFICE OF
LON KILE
114 NORTH SECOND STREET
HUGO, OKLAHOMA

February 23, 1967

Honorable Carl Albert
Member of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Carl:

As you may remember for about two years I have been the general counsel for the Choctaw Nation. As such I have worked very closely with the Indians and the Indian leaders within the Choctaw Nation.

For several years they have been very dissatisfied with Dr. Benjamin E. McBrayer, who is the Director of Indian Health in Oklahoma. The complaints of the Indians were so vocal and so consistent that Washington took heed and Dr. McBrayer is being moved out of Oklahoma at the close of this fiscal year.

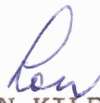
The Indians meanwhile want very badly to have John Spaan appointed as Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Mid Area office succeeding a Mr. Ernest V. Downing, who retired. Dr. McBrayer, aware of the hostility that the Indians have toward him, and the fact that their hostility was responsible for his being removed, has been blocking them on the appointment of John Spaan. Because of his connections, etc., he has succeeded to the extent that I understand somebody by the name of Francis Ellis is being transferred from Alaska to this position. The Indians are quite disappointed about this. They believe that their voice should be heard. The transfer of Francis Ellis is not to be completed until April 1st, and I believe that if the transfer can be headed off that Spaan can get the job. I would very much appreciate your making a personal effort to get Spaan appointed. It means nothing to me personally but it means a great deal to the Indians in our part of the state. I am assured by all of our responsible leaders that Mr. Spaan is well qualified; that he will work with and for the Indians, and being from Oklahoma he understands the Indians and their health problems more than anyone else.

Particularly, I wish that you would see that the transfer of Ellis is not finalized until you have an opportunity to discuss this matter further with Chief Belvin. In this connection a group of people interested in Indian Health are paying Chief Belvin's way to Washington out of their own pockets so sincerely do they feel that the appointment of Ellis would be detrimental to the interest of the Indians in Oklahoma, and conversely, the appointment of Spaan would be highly beneficial to them.

Honorable Carl Albert
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I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Chief Belvin so that he might know also of my personal interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


LON KILE

LK:cd
cc: Chief Harry J. W. Belvin