

Public Health Service JOHN SPAAN

March 4, 1967

Mr. F. L. Lewis
Chairman Chickasaw Housing Authority
Chickasaw Nation
Box 512
Madill, Oklahoma 73446

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you very much for your good letter of February 28 in which you strongly recommend 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 also recommended Mr. Spaan for this position to Dr. E. S. Rabreau, 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 followed up our recommendations with personal calls and visits with Public Health officials in urging that the person chosen to fill this important post be a well qualified person, preferably an Oklahoman, who is familiar with, understands and is sympathetic with Oklahoma Indians and their problems.

Although an assignment had been made prior to our recommendations, we received a call from Dr. Rabreau telling us that he has reconsidered his decision with regard to the Executive Officer position, and that a vacancy announcement will be issued and all eligible applicants will be considered.

I appreciate your sharing your thoughts with me. I can assure you that I will go down the line for the Oklahoma Indians, and I will continue to do everything that I can to help them.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M. C.

F. L. Lewis

BOX 512

MADILL, OKLAHOMA

RANCHER
BUILDER
LAND AND LEASES

Phone IN 5-3111
Home IN 5-3273

February 28, 1967

Honorable Carl Albert, M.C.
Office of the Majority Leader
Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20510

Subject: Executive Officer Position - Oklahoma City Area Office

Dear Honorable Carl Albert:

I am a Chickasaw Indian and a member of the Chickasaw Advisory Counsel to the Governor of the Chickasaws. Also, I am a member of the Inter Tribal Counsel of the Five Tribes of Oklahoma.

At all of the meetings held, which I have attended, where Representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs were present, they have stressed for the Indian people to tell them what the Indians of Oklahoma wanted from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

When I heard of a change to be made in Public Health Service, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma area office, I personally contacted many Indians in this part of the Chickasaw Nation and find that they want a man from Oklahoma and that man is John Spaan, who we think will do the job for them.

In the last year or two the Bureaucrats in Washington sent men to Public Health Service, Indian Division to the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma office. These men did not know or did not care how to administer to the needs of the Indians of Oklahoma, therefore, they had to be transferred elsewhere, leaving an ugly scar on these Indians which will not easily heal.

If Mr. Spaan is appointed and does not do a good job for our Indian people, I am sure they will be the first ones to want him replaced.

Now is the time for you to help the Indian segment of your constituency, after having this and many other letters recommending Mr. Spaan. I feel sure you will go down the line for Oklahoma Indians.

May I hear from you on receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,


F. L. Lewis
Chairman Chickasaw Housing Authority
Chickasaw Nation

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