

February 22, 1967

Mr. Polie B. Belvin

Boswell, Oklahoma 74727

Dear Mr. Belvin:

Your letter of February 11 was awaiting me upon my return to the office this week.

I don't have much to add to what my administrative assistant told you in his letter. I do want to tell you how much we think of your brother. Not only do we have a genuine affection for him but we admire and respect him and depend upon him to guide us in matters pertaining to our Indian friends. We know he will never steer us wrong.

We are continuing to do everything we can in the Executive Officer matter. Thank you for sharing your thoughts on this with us.

Our very best wishes.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M. C.
Third District, Oklahoma

CA/Whn

Public Health Service

SPAAN, Mr. John (to be answered upon
Mr. Albert's return)

February 17, 1967

Mr. Polie B. Belvin

Boswell, Oklahoma 74727

Dear Mr. Belvin:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 11 addressed to Congressman Albert recommending Mr. John Spaan for the position of Executive Officer in the Oklahoma City Area Office of the Public Health Service's Division of Indian Health. Congressman Albert is taking advantage of the Lincoln Recess of Congress and is away from Washington for some sunshine and rest before returning to the office next Monday. We'll put your letter on his desk for his attention. I know he will appreciate it.

As you may know, Congressman Albert also strongly recommended Mr. John Spaan for this position. He has contacted Dr. 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.

Congressman Albert has received many wonderful letters of recommendation for Mr. Spaan, and has shared them with Dr. Rabeau. I am sure he will want to forward a copy of your strong recommendation over to Dr. Rabeau for appropriate consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Ward,
Administrative Assistant

CLW/hn

Public Health Service SPAAN, Mr. John

February 17, 1967

Dr. E. S. Rabeau
Assistant Surgeon General
Director, Division of Indian Health
Public Health Service
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Dr. Rabeau:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from Mr. Polie Belvin, Boswell, Oklahoma, regarding the Executive Officer position in the Oklahoma City Area Office of the Public Health Service's Division of Indian Health. You will note Mr. Belvin strongly recommends Mr. John Spaan for this position.

Mr. Polie Belvin is the brother of Chief Harry J. W. Belvin, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and works very closely with our Indians in this area. His letter is typical of the many calls and letters we have been receiving regarding this Executive Officer position.

We would again appreciate your appropriate consideration of Mr. Belvin's letter as well as the other letters we have been forwarding to you in Mr. John Spaan's behalf.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M. C.
Third District, Oklahoma

CA/hn
Enclosure

Boswell, Oklahoma
February 11, 1967

Honorable Carl Albert
Congressman Third District
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albert:

This letter regarding an appointment to a vacancy in the Medical Area Office in Oklahoma City.

The Indians have certainly been concerned about this appointment, especially the Choctaws. Now, Mr. Albert we feel the Choctaws know you are in a position to help us get the man we want, Mr. John Spaan. He is a man experienced with Indian affairs in Oklahoma and is concerned about their welfare. He is already in the Indian Health Service and has been for many years.

I was talking with J. H. Belvin, the Chief of the Choctaws, who is also my brother, and he seemed a little apprehensive about the matter and indicated that you could get the job done, if you set your head to do it. J. H. has certainly been loyal to you, and Mr. Albert, I feel safe in saying you will not go wrong in helping us out on this matter. We want an Oklahoman to work in Oklahoma for Oklahoma Indians. This would iron out much of the difficulty that keeps arising among the young men who are being sent every two years to administer the Indian Health Program in Oklahoma. They just don't know Oklahoma Indians, and a man like Mr. Spaan could work out a program that would take a lot of the heat off the Chief as well as the men, such as you, in Congress by avoiding much of the complaints of sick Indians.

During your illness, we were certainly concerned about your re-election and we all did our best for you. J. H.'s fight for you was indeed a gallant one as he leads, I believe it is safe in saying 99% of our Choctaws; what he tells them they believe. Now, Mr. Albert, we are asking you if it is possible to help us without hurting yourself if you will do so.

I am very sorry about your recent illness and certainly hoping and praying for you to regain your health. The good Lord will heal all your infirmities and keep you with us at your important position for many, many years is my prayer.

Yours very truly,

Polie Belvin

Polie B. Belvin