

December 7, 1967

The Honorable A. P. Matthews
P. O. Box 56
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

Dear Mr. Matthews:

I appreciated very much your recent letter in which you endorse the proposal written up in a recent issue of the Hugo Daily News of an Indian center in Hugo.

We had delayed replying in the hope we might locate a clipping of this article. We have not been able to do so, but we recall reading the article and are happy to have your letter expressing the hope that this proposal can become a reality.

We are placing your letter in our active files and will certainly be in contact with you if we feel there is something you can do to help.

I share your high regard for Mrs. Jefferson. As you point out, she has long sought a center for Indians at Hugo. We, like you, want to do everything we can to help make this dream come true.

Our best wishes.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M. C.
Third District, Oklahoma

CA:emh

A. P. MATTHEWS

Justice of the Peace, Jeter Township
Choctaw County

P. O. Box 56 — Phone FA 6-2981
HUGO, OKLAHOMA 74743

November 14, 1967

Hon. Carl Albert
Congressman 3rd District of Oklahoma
House Office Building
Washington D. C.

Dear Congressman Albert.

A month or two ago the Hugo Daily News carried a rather lengthy item on ~~the~~ its front page in which it was related that some Governmental Agency had under consideration the advisability of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ establishing a comprehensive Indian ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Health Center here in Hugo, Oklahoma. In addition to what was purported to be solid news about this matter the newspaper item left the impression (as I now recall) that it was incumbent upon every one who might be interested in the establishment of such a Health Center or perhaps it was termed a Medical Center. To get busy and write letters or otherwise contact the proper Authorities and urge the necessity of the Center.

Congressman Albert I can think of nothing that would be of as much benefit to our Indian people as would the establishment of such a Health Center. The vast majority of our Indians are medically indigent therefore they can not pay for adequate private ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ medical services. I know full well that medically indigent Indians can go to our State and County Health Departments and obtain the same service that is available for other indigent persons but a life time of observation convinces me that they will not do it. This condition does not arise because of ~~XXXXXXX~~ any inherent obstinacy on the part of the Indians but rather because of their inherent shyness and disinclination to go any place where there is any shadow of doubt about the quality of their welcome.

I do not now recall if it was the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior or the U.S. Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare or perhaps some other branch of our Federal Government which is supposed to have under consideration the advisability or the inadvisability of establishing such a Medical Center but whoever it is that ~~XX~~ has the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ responsibility of making the final decision has my earnest prayers that they do establish the Center as described in the Hugo Daily News.

I was recently approached by Mrs. Wallace Jefferson of Hugo, Oklahoma and asked to sign some perfectly blank papers which she said would subsequently be properly headed as an endorsement of the proposed Center. And that the then properly headed papers would be sent to you among others whom she mentioned. When I demurred to placing my signature on any kind of blank paper but promised to write you myself in behalf of the Center ~~etc~~, Mrs. Wallace informed me that my signature on a private letter would not have as much value as ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ would my signature on her paper. Therefore on the chance that there may be some shadow of validity to her contention. When and if the papers which she has is properly headed I will beg her to allow me to sign them yet. When I told Mrs. Wallace that I would send her a copy of whatever letter I should write you on the matter she told me not to bother about that as she was not interested.

and that my letter to you would do her no good.

Jefferson

I do not know if this letter will do Mrs, ~~WALLACE~~ any good or not but for her benefit I would like to state that it is my understanding that she has spent considerable time and effort in behalf of this contemplated Indian Health Center, If it ever becomes a reality she may rightfully claim to have had a part in creating a favorable public opinion on the matter.

Mrs, Jefferson , like myself, is not an Indian she, like myself, is the spouse of an Indian and the parent of Indian children. I believe that her interest in the welfare of Indians generally is a sincere and heartfelt interest. That her interest in the general welfare of local Indians is , in my opinion, secondary to ~~ZZZZ~~ her overriding primary legitimate other interests does not alter the fact that she is ~~XXXXXXXX~~ interested and that her ~~ZZZZZZZZZZXZXZ~~ interest is, in the main, a wholesome interest.

Congressman Albert if there is any person that I could write to or any agency that I could contact or any ones Petition that I could sign or any thing that I can do to help promote the establishment of the Indian Health Center.

Please let me know

Sincerely Yours


A.P. Matthews

cc to Mrs, Wallace Jefferson.