

STATEMENT OF CARL ALBERT, M. C.
THIRD DISTRICT - OKLAHOMA

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate this opportunity to appear before your sub-committee. My interest in Indian affairs is naturally greater than that of most of my colleagues. I grew up in the Choctaw Nation. Some of my warmest life-long personal friends are Indians. There are probably more Indians in the Congressional District which I am honored to represent than there are in any other Congressional District in the United States. Most of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, two of the greatest of the Five Civilized Tribes, reside in my District. Members of these tribes have played an important part in the development of the state of Oklahoma. They occupy positions of leadership in practically every community in my District. Many of them have attained high positions within our state and federal governments. They have served honorably and with extraordinary distinction in the great war that has just been won.

I would like to call the Committee's attention, at this time, to a matter about which many persons outside of Oklahoma are under a misapprehension. The former wealth of the great Osage Tribe has led many to believe that Oklahoma Indians are fabulously wealthy. The fact is, with respect to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribes, that but very few may be considered prosperous. On the contrary, there is widespread poverty among these fine Americans. Except for the government and mission schools in my District, there are many Indian children who would not have the opportunity to get even an elementary education. These schools have been able to take care of a number of unfortunate children, including children from broken homes and children whose parents live so far from public schools that they are not able to attend the ordinary state schools. Likewise, except for the hospital facilities that have been