

*Indian Affairs*

March 29, 1946

Mr. John R. Pearson  
McCoy, Craig & Pearson  
Attorneys at Law  
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Dear Friend:

Under date of March 13th you wrote me that there was a suspicion in your community that the Osage Indian Superintendent and Tribal Council, and their attorney, were in Washington seeking enactment of legislation affecting the Osage Tribe, and that rumor had it that one of the items included in their agenda was a proposal to divest the county courts of Oklahoma of jurisdiction in probating estates of deceased Osage Indians, and something else with regard to guardianship of incompetent members of the Tribe.

I was with this group a great deal while they were here. They visited the U. S. Army Engineers office and the Indian Commissioner's office, both without me. I went with them and introduced them to the subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations having charge of the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior, and a hearing was had there. At this hearing, the Superintendent and two or three of the members testified. The burden of the Council and of their whole work before the subcommittee was to ask for a reduction of the appropriation which would have the effect of eliminating a few of the employees at the agency. I think their attitude made a forceful impression upon the committee, and I should not be surprised if the committee follows some of their recommendations. It certainly is a step in the right direction, although I know nothing about the particular positions which they asked to have eliminated, nor the functions performed by the incumbents of such posts, and I certainly am not acquainted with the personnel. However, it is high time that those whose money is being spent, and most of this belongs to the Osage Indians, have a voice in the expenditure of their own funds. Likewise, it is timely for someone to suggest economy in the spending of the taxpayers' money through appropriations of Congress. The Interior Department asked for a much larger appropriation this year than they did last year, and I know the temper of the committee is to economize rather than to expand such expenditures and appropriations.

SCHWABE - COLL



I am morally sure that the rumors which you heard were unfounded, and you may rest assured that I shall always be alert and eager to ascertain what is going on and inform you and many other interested persons of any approaching dangers to the equilibrium of your community.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LW

SCHWABE COLL



McCOY, CRAIG & PEARSON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PAWHUSKA, OKLAHOMA

March 13, 1946.

FRANK T. MCCOY  
JOHN T. CRAIG  
JOHN R. PEARSON

Hon. George B. Schwabe,  
Member of Congress,  
Washington, D. C.

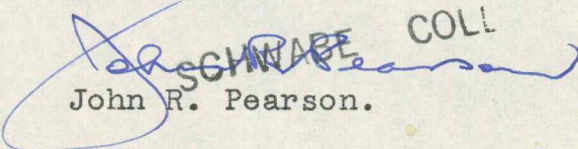
Dear Mr. Schwabe:

Rumor has it that the Superintendent of the Osage Indian Agency, members of the Osage Tribal Council and their attorney are in Washington, seeking the enactment of legislation effecting the Osage Tribe. Rumor also has it that one of the items included in their agenda is legislation to divest the County Courts of Oklahoma of authority in the probating of estates of deceased Osage Indians, also with reference to guardianship of incompetent members of the Osage Tribe. If rumor has it correctly, it goes without saying that members of the Osage County Bar Association want the right to respectfully protest the enactment of legislation along the last mentioned lines, because it is our sincere opinion that it would amount to no more than the creation of another bureau, and the expense incurred in the probate of Indian estates would merely be transferred to defray the salaries of additional governmental employees. We have other thoughts to express in a formal protest which we would enter in the record if that becomes necessary.

We would appreciate it very much if you would ascertain the reason for the visit, and if it is legislation, that you will keep us posted on developments, and make certain that we have ample opportunity to protest.

Thank you very kindly for keeping a watch on this situation and your immediate advice to us.

Sincerely yours,

 COLL  
John R. Pearson.

JRP:e