

Indian Affairs

March 19, 1946

Mr. F. W. Files
Attorney at Law
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Dear Frank:

I have your letter of March 13th relative to what you have heard of the mission of the Superintendent and Osage Tribal Attorney, and members of the Council here in Washington.

All these people were in my office, some of them several times, during their visit here last week. I held many conferences with them and went with them before the subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations having charge of the appropriations for the Department of the Interior. Not one word was suggested to the effect that they had in mind the introduction of a bill in Congress to take Indian matters out of the jurisdiction of the courts and place them under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior. In fact, everything I heard and every discussion we had, indicated that their thinking was in exactly the opposite direction. They want to curtail and cut down the jurisdiction and activities of the Indian Bureau, and told me definitely several times that they favored some plan which would place their affairs in the hands of courts the same as in the case of white people. They definitely gave me the impression that they want to get out from under the departmental control and supervision as fast and as completely as possible.

You may rest assured that I would not have introduced any legislation along the lines you suggested it was rumored they were interested in having introduced, without first discussing the matter with people like you who have been so active for so many years and are conversant and well informed on the subject. I hope you will believe me that I have never considered such a proposition and do not see the wisdom of such a law and that before any bill is ever introduced by me affecting the rights of so many people, I shall without fail give those, like yourself, interested in the operation of such a law, ample opportunity to be heard.

SCHWABE COLL

I thank you for having written me, and trust you will keep me advised as to happenings in your part of the District on any subject you may consider of interest to me, for I am always glad to have your reactions.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LW

SCHWABE COLL

F. W. FILES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PAWHUSKA, OKLAHOMA

March 15, 1946

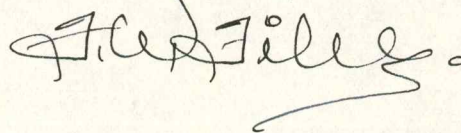
Hon. George Schwabe
Member of Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

At the present time the Superintendent of the Osage Indian Agency, the Osage Tribal Attorney and members of the Tribal Council are in Washington. It is my information that they propose to have a Bill introduced in Congress to take the Indian matters out of the jurisdiction of the Court and place them under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior. This, in my opinion, would result in a further increase of bureaus, commissions and regimentation and would be against the best interests of the Indians and the citizenship of Oklahoma.

If such a Bill is proposed, I feel that the people of Osage County should be kept informed, and that you should not permit it to pass until you get the ideas of the citizenship of Osage County. I would, therefore, consider it a personal favor if you would keep me advised.

Very truly yours,



FWF:J

SCHWABE COLL