

*Indian Affairs*

May 4, 1946

Mr. John E. Whitehorn  
Asst. Principal Chief of Osage Tribe

Mr. John W. Collins  
Council Secretary  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Friends:

Upon my return to Washington I found your letters of April 22nd and 26th, which I have read with more than usual interest.

I am chagrined beyond words at what you tell me has taken place since you were here. It seems almost unthinkable that government officials would do the things you report they have done in connection with your tribal affairs. Such intermeddling and interference with the actions of your Council, in my humble opinion, cannot be justified in any way. Of course, I know nothing about the facts except what you have told me. But I shall certainly bring them to the attention of my colleagues, and I thank you for having furnished me this information.

I might state that present indications are that the Interior Appropriations Bill for 1947 has been calendared for consideration of the House of Representatives next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Representative Jed Johnson, the Chairman of the subcommittee in charge of this bill, has not returned to Washington; but as soon as he returns and I have an opportunity to confer with him, I shall do so and call his attention to the reports you have made to me and the statements you have set forth in your letter.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GS:LW

SCHWABE COLL



Tulsa, Okla.

April 26, 1946.

Congressman George B. Schwabe  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

Since our visit with you in your office in Tulsa, Okla. this 26th. day of April, 1946, another proposition concerning Mr. T. B. Hall, Supt. of the Osage Agency and one the restricted Indians has been brought to our Attention.

This seems to be another case of horse-trading and trying to get this restricted Indian to recind a testimonial letter that the Osage Tribal Council had inserted in the Congressional Records with the council's justification on the 1947 budget when they appeared before the appropriation committee March 15, 1946.

You will recall this restricted Indian as Mr. Otis Penn, who with his wife, appeared <sup>in</sup> the picture at the tulip tree. This boy was in Washington at that time for the express purpose of requesting the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to release now on deposit at the Osage Agency in Pawhuska funds requisitioned for improving and stocking property purchased some time ago. He was told the matter would be considered from the justifications in the above mentioned letter. He had no answer from the Commissioner and at a later date the Council brought it to the attention of Mr. Zimmerman in Chicago where they were led to believe that the release would be granted in a few days. On Monday, April 22, 1946 Mr. Penn wired Chicago for advice on the matter, and received a reply leading him to believe that the matter was entirely in the hands of the Supt.

SCHWABE COLL



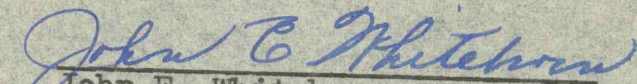
of the Osage Agency, Mr. T. B. Hall.

To-day, in the Company of Councilman Paul Pitts, Mr. Penn requested the approval of Mr. Hall and was told that he would approve of the release of these funds, PROVIDED he would recind the testimony submitted by the Council while in Washington. Even though his whole success on his farm for this entire year, depends on the release of this money, I am proud to say that he refused to make this concession.

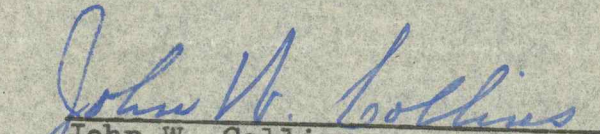
We are of the opinion that more of this pressure effort will be exercised on these restricted Indians between now and June 3rd. 1946, the date of the Osage Tribal Election.

We will thank you, Mr. Schwabe, to discuss this incident with Mr. Jed Johnson and Congressman Jensen of Iowa.

Yours very truly,



John E. Whitehorn,  
Asst. Principal Chief of Osage Tribe  
2639 S. Cincinnati  
Tulsa, Okla.



John W. Collins,  
Council Secretary  
1414 Erie  
Tulsa, Okla.

SCHWABE COLL



Tulsa, Okla.

April 26, 1946.

Congressman George B. Schwabe  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

During our conversation with you in your office in Tulsa, Okla. this date, regarding the letter of April 22, 1946, that you would find awaiting you in your Washington office pertaining to the resolution of the Osage Tribal Council, dated April 17, 1946, you requested a letter stating the excuse offered by Mr. Joseph T. Lombard, Sr., Mr. Paul Pitts, and Mr. Harry Red Eagle for their action on the above resolution. Will state that their reason for doing so was due to pressure being brought on them by a small group of restricted Indians and they were being incited into this HIGH PRESSURE method by the Superintendent of the Osage Agency, Mr. T. B. Hall.

We will appreciate your discussing this incident with Mr. Jed Johnson and any other officials that you see fit.

Thanking you for your many courtesies, I am

Very truly yours,

*John E. Whitehorn*  
John E. Whitehorn,  
Asst. Principal Chief of the Osage Tribe  
2639 S. Cincinnati  
Tulsa, Okla.

*John W. Collins*  
John W. Collins  
Council Secretary



Tulsa, Oklahoma  
April 22, 1946

Congressman George B. Schwabe  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Friend Mr. Schwabe:

We are attaching a copy of a letter that has been mailed to Congressman Jedsen of Iowa, the Honorable Jed Johnson, William A. Rose and Albert A. Grorud. You will note how things have changed by T. B. Hall, Superintendent of Osage Agency throwing a scare into the Restricted Indians and they in turn to the Osage Council. We would be most appreciative for any advise you could give us and same would be treated strictly confidential.

Thanking you for past courtesies, we are

Sincerely,

*John E. Whitehorn*  
John E. Whitehorn,  
Assistant Principal Chief of  
Osage Tribe  
2639 So. Cincinnatti  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*John W. Collins*  
John W. Collins,  
Secretary of Osage Tribal  
Council  
1414 So. Erie  
Tulsa, 4, Oklahoma

JWC:  
np

SCHWABE COLL



Tulsa, Oklahoma  
April 22, 1946

Congressman, George B. Schwabe  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Friend:

You will recall that the Osage Tribal Council appeared before your Committee in Washington, D. C. about March 14, 1946.

We were inspired by the fine spirit of cooperation we received from the Committee and our distinguished Oklahoma Congressman, Mr. George B. Schwabe. Upon return home we immediately visited our Chief, Fred Lookout and gave him a detailed report of our efforts in Washington, D. C. Chief Lookout was over-joyed at the efforts we had made in behalf of the Osage Tribe.

Superintendent of the Osage Agency, Mr. T.B. Hall remained in Washington, D. C. for some time. Upon returning home we immediately called the employees of the Osage Agency together in a meeting and informed them of the Osage Council's action in Washington before the Appropriation Committee and told them how Mr. Jed Johnson and Congressman Jedsen reacted to the justification presented by the Osage Council. Mr. T.B. Hall informed the Agency employees that he could not guarantee them their positions after July 1st. Possibly three or four resigned.

Alarm was spread among the Restricted Indians that the Osage Tribal Council was ruining the Osage Agency and that the Restricted Indians would be unable to collect their interest money; (this interest money has been due since March) that the interest on Government Bonds could not be paid and there was a possibility that the June Annuity payment could not be made. All this because the Superintendent wanted to scare them into protesting to the Council on the justification they presented to your Committee. A few of the Restricted Indians approached Tribal Councilman on the matter April 17, 1946. Mr. Edward Simpkins and Mr. Frank Baker, two Councilmen who are considered strictly favorable at all times to the Superintendent of the Agency and who did not accompany the Council to Washington, D.C. made and seconded a motion to recind the action of the Council before your Committee. This motion did not receive a vote, then Mr. Joseph T. Lombard, Sr., one of the Councilmen who appeared before you, got a motion to recind the action of the Council in Washington and the two Councilmen favorable to the Agency, with three others, namely Mr. Paul Pitts, Mr. Harry Redeagle and Mr. Frank Quinton voted for the motion just because it was an easy way out of the predicament and Lombard, Pitts, Redeagle and Quinton were afraid to fight Supt. Hall on the matter. T. B. Hall asked the Council three years ago to recind their

SCHWABE COLL



action before the Senate Sub-committee. They refused him, but at this particular time there is in progress in Osage County Oklahoma, an election campaign for the Quadrennial Tribal Election of June 3, 1946. We feel he took advantage of this opportunity to scare the Restricted Indians into influencing the Council members.

The said resolution was passed on April 17, 1946 without the signatures of acting Chief John E. Whitehorn or the signature of the Council Secretary. John W. Collins and John E. Whitehorn refused to sign and the Council Secretary was not present. This resolution was taken to Chief Fred Lookout who so heartily indorsed our justification and he signed the resolution to recind the justification.

Gentlemen it is our sincere opinion that five men should not be allowed to act so hastily in undoing something that the Council has worked practically four years to accomplish and without consulting a representative group of Tribal members.

A meeting of Tribal members will be held in Skiatook, Oklahoma April 25th, and we understand that this will be discussed in full and it is quite possible a petition will be circulated asking the Appropriation Committee to proceed with the justification as presented in Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen we feel that an investigation of this incident by proper authorities would reveal some interesting facts. We are at a loss as to know how to proceed and you gentlemen who heard us while there, might be able to assist us in bringing the facts of this incident to light.

We will be most appreciative for any information you can give us.

Thanking you gentlemen for your fine cooperation and assuring you of our sincere appreciation and we again thank you for an early reply to this letter.

Copies to:

Congressman Jedsen  
of Iowa, Washington, D.C.

Congressman Geo.B. Schwabe,  
Washington, D.C.

Albert A. Grorud, Spec.Asst.  
Committee on Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Wm. A. Rose, Gen. Acct. Office  
Washington, D. C.

Yours very truly,

*John E. Whitehorn*  
John E. Whitehorn,  
Asst. Principal Chief of Osage Tribe  
2639 So. Cincinnatti, Tulsa, Okla.

*John W. Collins*  
John W. Collins, Secretary of  
Osage Tribal Council,  
1414 So. Erie, Tulsa, Oklahoma

SCHWABE COLL