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*Indian
Legia*

May 21, 1946

Honorable E. H. Moore
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Herewith attached is final draft of the proposed Indian Bill which I discussed with you a few days ago. In short, the legislation proposes that a final and complete settlement be made with all Oklahoma Indians by the payment of the sum of \$3,000 to each living enrolled Indian, or to his heirs, in accordance with the laws of descent and distribution of the State wherein the allottee lived at the time of his death; and on and after the settlement, the Federal Government would have no further jurisdiction over any Oklahoma Indian or his property. Incompetents and minors would be subject to the probate law of the respective jurisdictions in which they live. Tribal property would revert to the various tribes which are already legal entities under existing Federal law and would be free to handle such common property in the manner acceptable to each tribe. This has been, for many years, the desire of the Osage Tribe with respect to its oil interest.

There have been between 79- and 80,000 Oklahoma Indians enrolled as wards of the Government. The final settlement proposed by the bill would, therefore, require an appropriation of approximately \$240,000,000.

In the past thirteen years, under the Wheeler-Howard Act and the Thomas-Rogers Act, the Government has appropriated and spent over \$600,000,000. Approximately one-third of the Indian population of the United States lives in Oklahoma. On this ratio, there would have been spent \$200,000,000 on the Indians of Oklahoma for administrative expenses and on questionable and wasteful projects.

The Indian Bureau contends that the administration of Indian Affairs should continue for another fifty years. Based on the appropriations for the Indian Bureau during the past thirteen years and the ratio of Indian population in Oklahoma, the extension

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of such program would mean a total cost to the taxpayers of this country for Oklahoma Indians of about \$775,000,000. At the end of this time, the Indian problem and the Indian claims would still be unsettled and a continuing burden to the taxpayers.

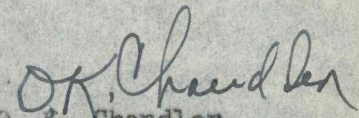
There is no sound, social or economic reason why the Indians of Oklahoma should be further subjected to the control and domination of the Indian Bureau. Likewise, there is no reason why they should be any longer maintained as a public burden on the taxpayers.

This bill has been submitted to and studied by Congressman Schwabe. He is agreeable to joining with you in introducing a companion bill in the House. I am, therefore, asking that you consider the feasibility of introducing the bill in the Senate.

I am confident from a long study of the Indian question that it is the only practical way in which a final settlement can be had with the Indians. I recognize that it is a blanket settlement with each Indian without regard to the equities that may be claimed by each individual, but I do not believe that the Government can, as a practical matter, determine the rights of each tribe and each individual member of every tribe and mete out exact justice. You may not agree with some of the language of the bill, and in that case, I hope you will use such language as you feel will better express the objectives I have in mind. I will welcome the opportunity to defend this proposal before either the House or Senate Committees.

Your early consideration of this proposal will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,


O. R. Chandler

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