

July 27, 1946

Mr. Henry E. Hoffman
410 First National Bank Building
Miami, Oklahoma

Re: H. R. 2294

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant.

I have written our mutual friend, Judge Vern E. Thompson, fully as to the action I have taken on H. R. 2294. I am now of the opinion that it will not be reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs before Congress adjourns, and that if it is reported out, the two Senators from Oklahoma will ask that it be amended to the extent that all Oklahoma Indians be excluded from the operations of the bill.

I was unable to contact Senator Thomas personally, but did dictate to his secretary the suggestions that all Oklahoma Indians be excluded, and likewise to Senator Moore's secretary. Later, I saw Senator Moore and he was very much opposed to the passage of the bill, especially as the same would apply to our Oklahoma Indians. Later he called my office in my absence, while I was on the floor of the House, and his secretary told my secretary that the Senator had contacted the Clerk of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and that the bill would not likely be reported out contrary to your wishes.

Thanking you for your interest, and assuring you that I am looking forward to the pleasure of meeting and visiting with you the first time I have an opportunity to be in Miami after Congress adjourns, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

HENRY E. HOFFMAN
410-412 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA

July 23, 1946.

Hon. George B. Schwabe, M. C.
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives,
Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

I wish to thank you for your letter of July 23rd together with copy of H.R. No. 2294. A cursory examination of this bill leads me to believe that it would be highly detrimental to the Quapaw Indians and other tribes located in Oklahoma.

The overall purpose of the Bill seems to contemplate problems that might arise where western Indian tribes or reservation Indians are concerned, and the solution of these particular problems. As you recall, Oklahoma Indians were excepted from the Wheeler-Howard Act, after strenuous objection of the Oklahoma Indians. The present Act seems to be another attempt to remedy certain problems of Indians covered by the Wheeler-Howard Act.

As you know, the Quapaw Indians were allotted lands in Ottawa County, Oklahoma, these allotments being individual allotments with restrictions against alienation. Subsequent to allotment lead and zinc mines were developed on these allotments. Legislation of the nature of instant bill might jeopardize future contractual relations between mining lessees and landowners deriving title through restricted interests.

It is the desire of the Quapaw Indians to maintain their present status as to matters of heirship and inasmuch as the Secretary of the Interior presently determines heirship of these Indians, untold confusion might result if they are included in this Act. It is my opinion that all Indians located in Oklahoma should be exempted from this

Hon. George B. Schwabe

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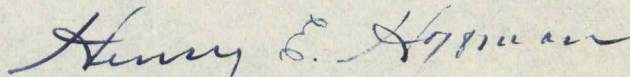
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Bill and not only members of The Five Civilized Tribes and the Osages.

I would appreciate anything you might be able to do in preventing the passage of this Bill in its present form and request that you advise the interested Senate committee members of the views expressed herein. I am not personally acquainted with Senator E.H. Moore but I have communicated my objections to Senator Elmer Thomas by long distance telephone.

I look forward to meeting you when you return to Oklahoma and will be glad to have you call on me when you come to Miami. Please keep me advised as to further developments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Henry E. Hoffman".

Henry E. Hoffman

HEH:BH