

*Indian Affairs
Legis*

October 29, 1945

Mr. Levi B. Gritts
1629 East Broadway
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Levi:

I have your letter of recent date relative to H.R. 341.

You state that I know that Senator Moore agreed with you to look after this bill. I must correct you on that, for I do not know anything about any agreement you had with Senator Moore except what you told me. I never was present when you and the Senator discussed this measure, nor was I ever present when the two of you were together.

I do not know just why this bill is being held up in the Senate. The Senators do not appreciate the House Members telling them what to do, nor hurrying them along in legislative matters. Hence, I have some hesitancy in asking them to push the matter. However, I have tried to find a convenient opportunity to speak to Senator Moore and find out what the situation is, but each time there have been others present, and I did not want to discuss this particular bill in those circumstances. I hope to have an opportunity to do so at an early date; if I can find out what is holding up this matter, I shall be glad to report my findings to you.

You spoke of Representative Stigler being away. He has been, but has returned. I saw him in the House today.

With all good wishes, I am

Your friend,

George B. Schwab
SCHWAB, G.B. COLL
M.C.

GS:LW

July 23, 1945

Mr. Levi B. Gritts
1629 East Broadway
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Gritts:

Your letter of July 17th reached this office after Congressman Schwabe had left Washington to spend a few weeks of the Congressional recess in Oklahoma.

Since it is anticipated that the Senate will shortly recess also, it is doubtful that consideration of H. R. 341 may be had before Fall.

I shall therefore bring your letter to the Congressman's attention upon his return to Washington, and you may be assured it will receive his earnest consideration at that time.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. A. L. Warren, Secretary to
The Honorable George B. Schwabe

SCHWABE COLL

Muskogee Okla.

July 17 1945

George B Schwabe M.C.

Washington D.C.

Dear Congressman -

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter I wrote to Senator Moore in regard to H.R. Bill No 341.

I hope that you can assist the Senator in studying this Bill or make it possible to talk to him about it. H.R. Bill No 341 is very important to restricted Indians here since so many of the employees of the Five Tribe Agency are so indifferent with their work. It is not necessary for me to go into details about them now but if we secure this legislation then we will have more authority to report to you and assist us before U.S. Government.

Hoping to hear from you

I remain

Yours truly

Levi B. Gritts,

SCHWABE

COLL

1629 East Bdwy, Muskogee, Okla.
14 July 1945.

Senator E. H. Moore,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

Since you, as I have understood, wanted more time to study HR Bill No. 341, known as the Keetoowah Bill, I have delayed in writing you in regard to this matter.

I had very good reason to ask you to look after this bill for us because politicians had been telling the full-blood Cherokees (members of Keetoowah Society) that you were not a friend of theirs. Congressman Stigler, author of the bill and Congressman George B. Schwabe, who has about half of the Keetoowah members in his district, suggested that I should see you; I also notified the Interior Department and was agreed to by all when I told them that your interest for the welfare of full-blood Cherokees was such that you would be too glad to assist them.

We are seeking a passage of this bill to we can have more authority as an organization in looking after the welfare of our members of the society.

I reported that you were looking after our bill when I returned home from Washington, D.C.

Hoping to hear from you and be successful in securing our legislation.

I remain,

Yours truly,

Levi B. Gritts,

SCHWABE COLL

COPY

July 17, 1945

Mr. Levi B. Gritts
1629 East Broadway
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Gritts:

Senator Moore is so very rushed these days with many committee meetings and daily sessions of the Senate that he has little available time to devote to his correspondence. In his behalf, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 14th, knowing he would want you to have a prompt reply, and you may be sure it will be brought to his attention at the first opportunity.

H.R.341 provides for the recognition of the Keetoowah Indians of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma as a band of Indians. Senator Moore wants to be sure that this bill, as enacted, does not put the principle of the so-called Wheeler-Howard Act in effect in Oklahoma. As you know, Senator Thomas exempted the Oklahoma Indians from the Wheeler-Howard Act in the first instance. The Senator is of the opinion that the provisions of the Wheeler-Howard Act should not apply to any of the Indians in Oklahoma.

Yours very truly

Virginia Whitson
Secretary to Senator Moore

SCHWABE COLL

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MUSKOGEE
OKLAHOMA

October 13, 1945

Hon. George W. Schwabe, M. C.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

H. R. Bill No. 341, known as Keetoowah Bill, is now pending before the Senate Indian Committee. As you know, Senator Moore, of Oklahoma, agreed with me to look after it and I understand when the Bill was presented before the Committee he asked for more time. We are asking recognition of our organization and authority to speak officially upon our own behalf. Since our government has been abolished we have not been able effectively to present our contention in protecting our interests.

It is true that we do not explain detail just what we intend to do if recognized, but I think you understand that you can effectively represent us in all matters in Congress if we had this authority.

Congressman W. G. Stigler is looking after it for us, but we understand he is now away in Honolulu, so we ask you to continue on working with him, especially while he is away.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours very truly,

L. B. Gritts
L. B. Gritts.

SCHWABE COLL