

GEORGE B. SCHWABE  
1st Dist. OKLAHOMA

HOME ADDRESS:  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

COMMITTEES:  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
MINES AND MINING  
PATENTS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D. C.**

June 1, 1945

Mr. Robert M. Gambill, Clerk  
Committee on Ways and Means  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Re: H. R. 2403

Dear Sir:

After talking with several members of the Committee on Ways and Means relative to the above pending measure, a tentative arrangement was effected for me to bring several members of the Osage Indian Council before the Committee, or members of the Committee, and discuss their reactions to this bill and the provisions thereof.

You will realize that it is difficult for these Indians to appear at times when hearings are scheduled on various bills in which they are interested, particularly the Indians from my section of the country who live at such a remote distance. Furthermore, they have to obtain authorization to appear in order to get their expenses for the trip paid even out of their own tribal funds. Authorization for their appearance was approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in order that they might protest the favorable consideration and passage of this bill, and they have been here several days.

The author of this bill is my friend, the Honorable Carl T. Curtis, and I presented to him the position of my constituents - not only the Osage Indians, but a number of other Indians who live in my District. However, the Osage Tribal Council and several prominent members of the tribe, were here this week and I introduced them to Representative Curtis, who heard and considered their objections to the bill. Among other things, they presented a signed letter addressed to me by Joseph Shunkahmolah, who is one of the leaders of the Osage Tribe, and one of their tribal councilmen. They also presented a statement of facts about the use of peyote, which they spell "peota", among the Osage Indians in their religious ceremonies. I am pleased to present both the letter of Mr. Shunkahmolah and the statement signed by him, to become a part of the records of your Committee in this matter.



The Osage Indians who are here today in opposition to this bill are:

Frank Quinton, Box 367, Pawhuska, Oklahoma  
Joseph Shunkahmolah, 501 S. Petit, Hominy, Oklahoma  
John W. Collins, 1414 South Erie, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Joseph Bates, Rural Route 3, Ponca City, Oklahoma  
Harry Red Eagle, Rural Route 1, Hominy, Oklahoma  
Mary Red Eagle, Route 1, Hominy, Oklahoma  
Paul Pitts, Box 657, Hominy, Oklahoma  
J. E. Whitehorn, 2639 South Cincinnati, Tulsa, Oklahoma

I cannot impress upon you too much the serious consideration that my Indian friends have given to the possible passage of this bill. The use of peyote in their religious observances is a very sacred portion of their religious ceremonies. The same is true of several tribes. I am reasonably well assured from my investigation of the effects of this herb upon those who use it in religious observances, that no bad effects, or harm, result. I am convinced that it is not a habit-forming drug, not a stimulant and not a poison; but apparently is absolutely harmless to the users. My information has been obtained from not only these Osage Indians who are among the best educated and the most outstanding and highest type of our Osage Indians, but also from Indians of other tribes who use peyote in their religious ceremonies. I have read reports of experts and have talked with men who have been in the Indian service for many years - particularly Mr. T. D. Hall, Superintendent of the Osage Agency at Pawhuska, Oklahoma; and I think all will agree that I am justified in my conclusions.

I believe that Representative Curtis has been convinced of the sincere attitude of my constituents; and from what he has told me, I think he is inclined not to ask for any further hearings to be held on this measure.

Thanking you for your consideration in this and other matters,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

*Geo. B. Schwabe*  
George B. Schwabe, M.C.