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March 15, 1937

Honorable Daniel W. Bell,  
Acting Director,  
Bureau of the Budget,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Bell:

This acknowledges your letter of February 20, relative to a proposed report to be made by the Secretary of the Interior regarding a bill (S.670) to authorize the payment of the sum of \$776,742.03 to the Osage Tribe of Indians. This sum is said to constitute the net amount received by the United States from the sale of certain tribal lands.

The records of this Department indicate that the Government has an equitable set-off against this claim in the sum of \$535,798.18. The details of this set-off are discussed in the enclosed memorandum dated March 5, 1937.

In view of the foregoing circumstances, I suggest that a recommendation be made to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs that the bill be amended so as to allow the United States credit for the set-off and to provide for the payment of only the difference between the amount of the claim and the amount of the set-off.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Homer Cummings

Attorney General