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WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEPHONE, MAIN 2218

CABLE ADDRESS
"KAPLAT"

June 10, 1938.

Dear Congressman Disney:

I sincerely trust you can get the Speaker to recognize you under suspension of the rules to call up the Osage Civilization Fund Bill, S. 670, as it would be a pity if this session closes without passing this bill.

In this connection the Osage Council through Harry Kohpay has sent me correspondence had with Congressman Cochran with reference to this bill, and I am enclosing copies thereof for your information and use. The reply of Mr. Cochran of April 19, 1938, is one to be used with caution, in my opinion.

With kind personal regards I am,

Sincerely,

Charles Kappler

Hon. Wesley E. Disney
House of Representatives

COPY

Pawhuska, Oklahoma, April 4, 1938

Hon. John J. Cochran
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cochran:

I am writing to you at the request of Chief Fred Lookout, Principal Chief of the Osage Tribe of Indians, concerning the bill now before Congress, known as H. R. 3611, providing for the payment of the so-called Civilization Fund, amounting to \$776,742.03 to the members of the Osage Tribe of Indians.

The Osage Council has withdrawn its contentions for the payment of interest on the Civilization Fund, which has accrued from 1865, and now agrees to accept the principal alone. Chief Lookout understands that this action will meet the objection you have to the passage of the bill. If any further objection to the bill arises he would greatly appreciate you writing to him or to me that we may advise the Council.

The Chief wishes me to advise you that our people have always been loyal to the United States Government, especially during the Civil War and again in the World War many of our people invested large sums in various Government bonds and many of our young men served the country with honor and distinction in the military service, and a number of them laid down their lives in the cause.

We feel that there can be no question raised as to the justness of our claim to this fund, and due to the continued economic depression and the resulting curtailment of oil field operations and the resulting lower income of our Tribe from royalties, many of our people are keenly in need of financial assistance, and the payment of this fund would greatly relieve many of our members from actual distress at this time.

Speaking on behalf of the Chief, I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to help the passage of this bill at this time, and we would also request that you write us as to your views on the proposed bill upon receipt of this letter.

Thanking you, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

Harry Kohpay
Assistant Principal Chief

COPY

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C., April 7, 1938

Mr. Harry Kohpay
Assistant Principal Chief
Lawhuska, Oklahoma

My dear Mr. Kphpay:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 4
in reference to the Bill for the Osage Tribe of Indians.

I am sorry to say that I cannot agree to the passage
of this bill and will oppose it if it is called up in the House.

With kind regards I am,

Sincerely yours,

John J. Cochran

Copy

Pawhuska, Oklahoma, April 16, 1938.

Hon. John J. Cochran
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of April 7th, replying to my letter of April 4th. You state that you are sorry to say that you cannot agree to the passage of the bill H. R. 3611, providing for the payment of a fund due and justly recognized by the United States Government to the Osage Tribe of Indians.

I am inclined to believe that you are not thoroughly familiar with this claim, that you have not investigated the fact that the Government deliberately misappropriated \$776,742.03 that rightfully belonged to the Osages. This money was for the sale of their lands in Kansas before moving to their present reservation. This money was supposed to have been deposited to the credit of the Osage Indians and not to the credit of all Indians, for educational purposes. The Osages never received any more than \$200.00 of this money for their own use and benefit, but on the other hand the money was dissipated through channels of which they had no control. Furthermore our bill waives all legal rate of interest which is justly due. This alone would exceed the principal amount.

You say that you are opposed to this bill, but is it not only fair that you should give a substantial reason? We once lived in your great State and consider ourselves a part of your constituency. We are the helpless wards of the United States Government whom you could represent as a fair and impartial judge. I am sure if this had occurred in your immediate family, you would turn every stone this side of "Hades" fighting for your own rights and justice of your own flesh and blood.

The Osage Council will be in Washington in the next two weeks and I would like this favor of you as a matter of courtesy to grant a committee of our Council a conference with you before we appear before the Indian Committee. I feel sure that we will become friends and that fairness and justice will be worked out for all concerned.

Respectfully yours,

Harry Kohpay
Assistant Chief of the Osage Indians

Copy

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C., April 19, 1938

Mr . Harry Kohpay
Assistant Chief of the Osage Indians
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

My dear Mr. Kohpay:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 16.

The Bill in question is Senate Bill 670 which is the same as H. R. 3511. This bill has already passed the Senate. I base my objections on the reports that I have received from Government agencies and I do not think that the Government owes this money, and therefore, I will continue to oppose the bill .

With kind regards I am,

Sincerely yours,

John J. Cochran