

April 14, 1937

Hon. Charles West
Acting Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

in re: Osage Civilization
Bill, S. 670; H.R. 3611

Dear Sir:

On my own initiative, upon seeing your report to Hon. Will Rogers, Chairman of the House Committee on Indian Affairs, I requested Mr. Rogers not to file a report on the Bill, in the hope that the following suggestions, looking to a correction of your report of April 12, 1937, might appeal to you.

(1) Attorneys' Fees: This feature, discussed in your letter from line 16, page 4 to line 23, page 5, is simply confusing, and makes the issue appear to be, in a large measure, a matter of attorneys' fees, when that is secondary. Enemies of the bill could make the charge that this was a fight over attorneys' fees.

Since the Senate passed the Bill without reference to the proposed amendment, and the House Committee reported the Senate Bill and refused to accept the suggested amendment, I see no good purpose in presenting it in your letter; but, on the contrary, it gives us more to meet on the floor of the House.

I respectfully suggest that the letter be corrected to eliminate all of that material.

(2) The quotation from the Attorney General's letter at the bottom of page 5, and the answer to it on page 6, in my judgment, should be eliminated because it is poor legislative strategy to suggest, even for the sake of argument, that some official authority thinks there is a set-off of \$535,000.

I hope the letter will be revised to end at the period preceding the words "with the Budget" at line 30 of page 5.

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I appeal to you to make this change. The Bill has passed the Senate three times, and the material I have asked to be deleted serves no good purpose, but confuses the issue and detracts from the main feature of the Bill.

Respectfully yours,

WED:JS

Wesley E. Disney.