

JOHN J. COCHRAN, MO., CHAIRMAN
ALLARD H. GASQUE, S. C.
RILEY J. WILSON, LA.
WILL M. WHITTINGTON, MISS.
GLENN GRISWOLD, IND.
RANDOLPH CARPENTER, KANS.
BEN CRAVENS, ARK.
JAMES L. QUINN, PA.
JOHN M. HOUSTON, KANS.
SIMON M. HAMLIN, MAINE
JAMES A. O'LEARY, N. Y.
AUBERT C. DUNN, MISS.
RAYMOND S. MC KEOUGH, ILL.
DON GINGERY, PA.
MERLIN HULL (PROGRESSIVE), WIS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

WASHINGTON, D. C. December 24, 1935.

CHARLES L. GIFFORD, MASS.
ROBERT F. RICH, PA.
JOHN B. HOLLISTER, OHIO
PHILIP A. GOODWIN, N. Y.
CLARE E. HOFFMAN, MICH.
B. W. GEARHART, CALIF.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Hon. Wesley E. Disney, M.C.
House of Representatives

My dear Colleague:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st in reference to the bill which effects Indian Affairs.

I confess that I have been extremely active in trying to prevent the passage of legislation extending benefits to the Indians. Frankly, some of this legislation is meritorious but the bulk of it is not. I am frank to say that in my opinion the Indian Tribes and I will add every State and Community in the Country should leave the Federal Government alone, when they take into consideration the gratuities that we have advanced since President Roosevelt took office.

As to the Indians, an investigation on your part will easily determine that the Government has been most liberal in the past and if we permitted to charge off the gratuities and advances that we have made to the Tribes, I think every one of them will be in the red in their account with the Government. Let me advise you not to pay much attention to the Department of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs when it comes to getting statistics in such cases. It is the General Accounting Office that has the record and can show you exactly what we have been doing all these years for the Indian Tribes. I realize we took their property, but the ones who were living at that time have long since passed away and it is the great grand-children who are now in the hands of the lawyers trying to recover money from the Government.

Hon. Wesley E. Disney, M.C.

12/24/35

Someday I hope to be able to have a talk with you on this subject in which I am deeply interested. My job is not a pleasant one, but as Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures it is my duty to go into these matters.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John J. Cochran