

March 7, 1946

Mr. Frank Ross, President  
Craig County Unit, Indian Congress  
Vinita, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Ross:

I have your telegram of March 5th stating that your unit will appreciate my support of H.R. 4497, often referred to as the Indian Claims Commission Bill.

As you know, I am a member of the House Committee on Indian Affairs, and this bill has received unusual consideration and attention at the hands of our Committee. The Chairman of the Committee, who is a Democrat, has asked me to assist him in the management of the bill on the floor of the House, particularly on the Republican side of the aisle. I have consented to do so.

I might say for your information that originally the bill was introduced in January, 1945, one copy by a Democratic member of the House Committee on Indian Affairs and another copy by a Republican member of that committee. The bills were almost identical. Finally, after working on the bill and after hearing the testimony of representatives of Indian organizations throughout the country, and after hearing the testimony of a number of individual Indians of many tribes in Oklahoma, the bill was amended and perfected and reported out in its present form.

I might say that former Senator Owen and former Senator Gore are ardent supporters of this measure. It seems to be about the only feasible and logical approach to the question. Both political parties in their national platforms have declared their parties in favor of a just and final settlement of all Indian claims against the Federal Government. Generally speaking, I am bitterly opposed to the creation of new boards and commissions, but I believe that this is one instance where we are justified in creating a commission to serve not to exceed ten years, requiring all claims to be presented within five years from the date of approval of the Act.



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# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

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HON GEO SCHWABE=I

HOUSE OF REP HOUSE OFFICE BLDG=

=THE CRAIG COUNTY UNIT OF THE INDIAN CONGRESS WILL

APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF HR 4497=

=FRANK ROSS PRESIDENT,

HR 4497.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



There are comparatively few members of Congress who represent Indian constituents. Hence, the burden has been upon a few of us to perfect this bill, and it will be our responsibility to sponsor the same on the floor of the House.

I might state for your information that I have had a few letters of protest against this bill, from certain Indians interested in promoting claims who, in some instances, have made their money out of contributions from the Indians who were told by these promoters that they had valid claims against the Government. This bill will likely stop such racketeering, and I think that in itself will be a benefit to the Indians.

I certainly appreciate your interest in this measure and shall appreciate your telling those who discuss the matter with you the true facts and circumstances. If I can be of further assistance or furnish additional information at any time on this measure, or if you have further suggestions to make to me, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LW