

SCHWABE COLL

Legis

Friday August 9th

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

Just after I mailed the registered letter to you today, Judge Johnson (Claremore) came in and had quite a visit with us. After the other girls went to lunch, he told me that he is interested in the appointment to the three-member Commission under the provisions of the Indian Claims Commission Bill. He stated that there exists a prejudice against any Indian being appointed to it for the reason that, should a matter concerning his particular tribe come before the tribunal, such Indian member might be inclined to favor his own tribe. He said he had been to Senator Thomas' office yesterday and saw Col. Lewis and Will Rogers there, both interested in the appointment, and that he hoped you would keep an open mind in that connection for the reason that no appropriation has been made for the Commission and that premature appointments may result in the appointee not being confirmed by the Senate. Etc. etc.

He also told me that it is hoped that the President will sign the bill next Tuesday, and that he, as President of some national association of Indians, is to participate in the ceremony at the White House, along with a number of other Indians, Secretary of the Interior, etc. He phoned Mr. McNickle of the Indian Commission while in our office.

He also said that Mr. McNickle is drafting a general letter (in rough form) which is to go out to the Indians in Alaska, including, among other matters, notice that the Secretary of Interior is to visit them this Fall and to have their tribal problems ready to discuss with him - that Mr. McNickle's secretary is on vacation and the department will be closed tomorrow, and asked if we would help him with the letter tomorrow morning. I told him we would be delighted to; he merely wants to get it into good shape, and then the Interior Department will have it photographed and sent out next week.

He said tell you he has opposition in his campaign for the first time, and hopes to see you at Claremore soon.

The enclosed arrived today from John R. Steelman, Director, Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion; I thought you might like to have it, to show your interested constituents that you had personally contacted him. I have kept carbon copy for our files.

Sincerely,

Secretary