

Indian Affairs

June 10, 1946

Mr. Ben Carpenter
Rural Route
Talala, Oklahoma

Dear Ben:

You move around so much that I hardly know where to locate you. I don't think I have ever had your address at Talala before. Of course, I know that I can nearly always get in touch with your brother; but tell me about how you happen to be at Talala, and if you are living there now.

I note what you say about a bill along the lines of the one suggested by our friend, O. K. Chandler. The idea has much merit, and I have been giving it a great deal of study. However, you must remember that a man cannot give his attention and time exclusively to one idea and one bill; and no Congressman should introduce a bill until he has made a thorough study of the measure and is willing to back it with all his might and all the best arguments available.

I think you will likely hear from me again on this subject within the near future; and in the meantime, I want you to know that I appreciate your interest, and your writing me.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LW

CHWABE COLL

Talala, Okla., June 6, 1946.

Hon. George B. Schwabe, M. C.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

I was in Whiteoak this week to see O. K. Chandler in connection with some business we have before the Indian bureau; he gave me a copy of his letter of May 10 to you, and a copy of a letter to Senator Moore, all with reference to an Indian bill he has prepared. He gave me a copy of the bill.

I have studied these copies of letters and the bill and fully endorse all of them. It is time this Indian business was over with. It is expensive and no real benefit to the Indians. About one Indian in a dozen knows about the Indian bureau anyway, and if that one was left to himself and required to do his own thinking and acting he would be better off, for the thinking and acting the bureau does for him is bad. You know this and I know it and everybody else knows it who knows anything about what is really going on. The idea of Congress giving millions of dollars annually to the Indian bureau to look after Indians it never sees and Indians who have been dead as long as six years, is bad business.

I am a fullblood Indian, as you know; all my people, children, grandchildren, neices and nephews and those married into my family and sisters families, are so-called incompetent or restricted Indians. Many of my closest friends are incompetent, so-called, or fullblood Indians. And I will say to you, we want this thing over with. Chandler's idea is the best I have yet to hear of. It is good for the Indian, good for the taxpayer, good for Oklahoma and not bad Republican politics, and I don't let an election go by without voting and taking part in it, as you know. All my group are Democrats and all supported you in your first election. We are ready to support you and work for your re-election.

Chandler in his letter to Senator Moore states you are ready to go with Senator Moore on the bill. I do not know Senator Moore and how he stands on this bill. He may or may not want to go with you. Can you afford to wait? Personally I don't think you can.

SCHWABE COLL

Senator Moore is not running now and you are, and this bill, outside of helping the Indians, will help you. I know you cannot get it through Congress now, but you can introduce it now and prove to the people you are on the job and will continue to be on the job in the next Congress. I know it is not going to be an easy task to get Congress to appropriate \$240,000,000 to a bunch of "Injuns" - if it was for some Russians, English or some other foreign group that of course would be different. But we are not going to get to the end of this Indian business until we really start in that direction.

I would like to hear from you soon.

Your friend,

Ben Carpenter

Ben Carpenter

CHAMBE COLL