

*Indian Affairs*

SCHWABE COLL

July 18, 1946

Mr. R. E. Chandler  
Miami  
Oklahoma

Dear Elmer:

I should have answered your letter sometime ago which you wrote me about the Bill prepared by our mutual friend, O. K. Chandler, to pay to the Oklahoma Indians a specific sum of money in payment of all claims they have against the Government. I have given this measure considerable study and assure you that I want to do everything I can for the best interests of the Indians and of the country.

When I am back in Oklahoma I want to discuss this matter with you.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS:e





## Floyd L. Perry Post No. 147, Inc.

MIAMI, OKLAHOMA

R. E. (ELMER) CHANDLER, SERVICE OFFICER  
OFFICE, AMERICAN LEGION HALL, 29 1/2 S. MAIN  
OFFICE PHONE 1503  
HOME PHONE 543 J

June 11, 1946.

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

Dear George:

I have been talking with O. K. about the Indian bill he has submitted to you and Senator Moore; have read the proposed bill and statement by O. K. in support of it; studied both and considered the feasibility of writing the proposal into law. Looks to me like it can be done, and should be done.

Of course I am not a lawyer nor legislator, and I have not made Indians and their affairs with the Federal government a life-study, as has O. K. On the subject I doubt that he has many if any superiors in the State. He has studied Oklahoma Indians through the best authority - Government records - reaching back to the beginning. He should know much on this subject and I believe he does.

He tells me the proposed bill is unlike any legislation heretofore offered on the subject; that it is a final settlement; that under it, the minor (the Indian) is in a court (Congress) of proper jurisdiction, asking for a final accounting and settlement; that the minor may challenge every act of the guardian (Government) throughout the guardianship - you know more about that than I, you are a lawyer and I am not; that it is not a claims bill in any sense; that in a final settlement all injustices are made right and the guardianship closed for all time; that in a purely claims matter the Indian cannot and does not win and that you get rid of neither he nor the bureau if he does - both are on the taxpayer afterward. He says too, that we are spending millions of dollars annually on dead Oklahoma Indians which the bureau cannot reach, and live Oklahoma Indians it never reaches; that the tax-charge is about \$12,000,000 annually; that this fraud has been in operation for years, particularly the past thirteen; that through settlement





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Congressman Schwabe, George B.  
#2

with Oklahoma Indians as the proposal suggests, the Government can and would save about \$535,000,000 on what the Indian bureau proposes should be spent on Oklahoma Indians the next 50 years - not a small savings as you and I must agree.

To me, a layman, there appears common sense and economy and justice in the proposal, whether the Indians ever owned the country or not; millions of dollars are being uselessly spent each year. Why not give this money to the Indians on the theory if not a fact, that they once owned the country and we are now making belated payment? Seems to me this would be more nearly just than continue the present injustice. It is ridiculous to argue that Oklahoma Indians need Government officials to care for them; if they had they would have long since died, as the officials never see them.

I cannot see how any Oklahoma citizen can find cause for opposing this type of bill. It brings a large sum of money to Oklahoma; places a large acreage of land upon Oklahoma tax rolls and transfers both Federal and Indian property to the State under given circumstances. Its transfer of Government buildings and grounds in use by the Indian bureau in Oklahoma to the Veterans' Administration for use of soldiers of World Wars I and II, as hospitals or otherwise, is a commendable gesture in favor of these men and women, and yet it does not leave the Indian out; thousands of them will be eligible to enter such institutions because of their service in both Wars. My judgment is that soldiers of these Wars, individually and through their organizations if necessary, will support the bill.

I do not know what your present views are in Indian matters, O. K. says you are agreeable to going with Senator Moore in the introduction of the bill in Congress. It is my judgment the bill will strike a responsive chord of approval by the public.

Will you drop me a line? Thanking you and with all good wishes,

Very respectfully yours,

REC/c  
cc Senator Moore

*R. E. Chandler*



COPY

June 11, 1946.

Hon. E. H. Moore  
United States Senator  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Moore:

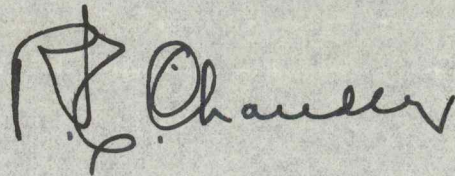
Enclosed is copy of a letter to Congressman George Schwabe of Oklahoma, relative to a proposed Indian bill by my cousin, O. K. Chandler, of Miami, Okla. The letter to the Congressman explains itself.

I trust you will be disposed to give the proposed legislation early consideration, and that you will be agreeable to introducing it in the Senate before adjournment or recess of the present Congress.

Thanking you and with personal good wishes,

Very respectfully yours,

REC/c  
cc Congressman Schwabe

O. K. Chandler