

SCHWABE COLL *file*

Washington, D. C., May 10, 1946.

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

Dear Congressman:

Reference is made to the proposed Indian claims and final settlement bill heretofore delivered to you, and there is enclosed a proviso covering your very pertinent suggestion.

The bill as drawn settles directly and individually the claims of all Oklahoma Indians, approximately 80,000, finally and forever, for damages growing out of every character of crime and injustice possible of one individual or government committing against another individual or government. Of the number of the original claimants at least forty percent are now deceased; their claims will be distributed to their heirs, thus raising the total number to be settled with to possibly 150,000 and reducing the payment to individuals as low as \$300 or less.

All lands and moneys owned by individual Indians and in the control of the Federal government are delivered or paid to said individual Indians or their heirs; all tribal money in the hands of the government due any Oklahoma Indian tribe, is distributed per capita to the enrolled members of the tribes or their heirs; all tribal real property and equipment in control of the Federal government is released, unrestricted to the tribes entitled thereto; all buildings or grounds in Federal ownership in the State of Oklahoma and used in the administration of Oklahoma Indian affairs, suitable for hospital or other benefits to soldiers of World Wars I and II are transferred to the Veterans' Administration; residue of said property is given to the State of Oklahoma for its use and benefit; all personal property, equipment, etc., belonging to the Federal government and in use in Oklahoma in the administration of Oklahoma Indian affairs is sold and the proceeds deposited in the Treasury of the United States; certain records of the Indian bureau are to be left with the U. S. Clerks at Muskogee and Oklahoma City and the residue transferred to the Archives in Washington, D. C. If within nine years from and after approval of the bill complete distribution of any money due any Oklahoma Indian under its terms shall not have been made, it shall escheat to the State of Oklahoma for the aid and benefit of the orphans of said State; all property, real and personal, individual and tribal, becomes subject to taxation within a specified time; six month's following approval of said bill all official positions in the Federal government in its administration of Oklahoma Indian affairs are abolished. When 51 percent of the claimants or members of any tribe have acceded to the provisions of the bill through acceptance of its benefits,

the remaining members of the tribe are forever bound thereby.

A cash outlay approximating \$240,000,000 with which to carry the proposed bill into effect, is justified as follows:

- 1 The amount is an insignificant sum in the settlement of reparations for damage resulting from murder, massacre, loss of government, land and personal property by a weak and defenseless people at the hands of a powerful and Christian nation.
- 2 Within the past thirteen years the Federal government has frittered away on a questionable program of national security, touching its Indian wards, upwards of \$600,000,000. Approximately ONE-THIRD of this amount would have supplied the money consideration required in the proposed bill.
- 3 It has been pointed out by a Committee of the present Congress that the present Indian program should be continued another "50 years", at a cost of one and a half billion to two billion dollars. Indians included in the proposed bill represent more than one-third of the Indians of the United States. They do not need a Federal guardian NOW, nor will they need one for "the next 50 years." For less than one-sixth of the amount it is proposed will be spent on the Indians of the nation "the next 50 years", Oklahoma Indians may be settled with NOW, finally and forever and further federal expenditure on their account cease FOR-
EVER - with a clear savings upwards of \$300,000,
000 to the taxpayers of the nation.

Congressman, in your District, under the provisions of the proposed bill, are directly or indirectly through their heirs, 25,000 claimants. In other words, \$75,000,000 - more than the cost of three Grand river dams - will pass into the hands of the PEOPLE; no nook or corner of your District will be missed. Directly, more than 25,000 living people will be affected - Indians by blood and whites intermarried with them.

I invite your serious consideration of the proposed bill and the memorandum attached, with this thought: IT'S THE END.

As a citizen, taxpayer, constituent of yours; as an Indian, in behalf of the Indian and the taxpayer; in support of common honesty in a final settlement between the Indian and his guardian-

government, and in the interest of economy in the conduct of government, I respectfully ask that you sponsor and introduce the proposed bill in the present Congress.

Thanking you, and with the best of personal good wishes,

Sincerely,

O. K. Chandler
O. K. Chandler

OKC/

*OK: Will see
you Monday
OK.*

COPY

PROVIDED, That when payment to claimants as designated herein, in final settlement of any and all claims against the Federal government as provided in this act, shall have reached at least fifty-one percent of the total enrolled membership of any Oklahoma Indian tribe as referred to herein, the remaining members of said tribe shall be forever bound by the provisions hereof, and shall ever afterward be estopped from asserting any claim or claims against the Federal government growing out of his, her or their membership in said Oklahoma Indian tribe.