

*Indian
affairs*

March 9, 1945

Mr. S. R. Lewis
403 Daniel Building
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Buck:

I know you are always interested in the welfare of the Indian, and I remember that you and I discussed the matter of an early and complete determination of all Indian claims and the way they have been so disgracefully neglected and their solution postponed. The Democratic National Platform of 1940 declared in favor of the determination of these claims and the payment of all such claims. The Republican National Platform of 1940 contained a similar declaration - in fact, the two were almost identical. The 1944 Republican National Platform came out stronger than ever in favor of an early, just and final determination of these claims, but I think the Democratic National Platform for 1944 was silent on the subject. However, I have always been in favor of meeting the issue squarely and without any evasion or further unnecessary delay, as you are aware.

Representative Stigler, five days after this term of Congress convened, introduced, or rather reintroduced, a bill perhaps identical with the one he had formerly introduced, seeking to create an Indian Claims Commission for the purposes I have discussed. This is H. R. 1198, a copy of which I am enclosing herewith for your information and study.

We have had one full day's hearing on this proposed legislation and took the testimony of a number of citizens from Oklahoma and other states. Further hearings will be held in the near future in the House Committee on Indian Affairs of which I am a member. Several important changes have been suggested, and doubtless some of them will be offered in Committee. In fact, I should not be surprised if a substitute measure is brought out by the Committee.

SCHWABE COLL

I realize that it is difficult, if not practically impossible, for the leaders among the Indians to attend these Committee hearings at Washington. For that reason, I am quite eager to have the reaction of such men as you. I wish you would give this bill your serious and early consideration and let me have your views on the same at your earliest convenience in order that I may know what they are before the Committee concludes its hearings and consideration of this or any similar measure. I might also suggest that you discuss the matter with other leading Indian citizens and let me have the benefit of your consolidated thought. I am seriously interested in doing everything I can, and to help see that it is done in the best possible way; and I am sure that the Committee will appreciate your views, as well as those of other persons of your calibre and ability.

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

1 enclosure

GS:lw

SCHWABE COLL