



## CHEROKEE NATION

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September 13, 1993

The Honorable Ada Deer  
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs  
U. S. Department of Interior  
18th and C Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ada:

It was such a pleasure to host your visit during the Cherokee National Holiday. It was also most interesting to see people react to you in your new role. I apologize for the "grand central station" atmosphere at the house. That is actually not very unusual. Tim and Lynn Giago are due to spend some time with me this week, as is Lisa Tiger and perhaps Dagmar Thorpe.

Pete and I had an excellent dinner with Attorney General Janet Reno. Among other things, he was able to speak with her about the Justice Department's lack of cooperation in deciding which Navajo (Dine) widows should receive compensation for the uranium related deaths of their husbands and I, of course, spoke with her about the continuing saga of the Arkansas Riverbed issue. We also spoke about many other Indian issues.

I would encourage you to meet with her as soon as your schedule allows. In Florida, she was involved in a number of programs and projects for children and youth, all of which were designed to intervene at an early age to prevent youth from stepping over the line into a life of crime during their teens. In some ways, she reminds me of you or you remind me of her. I think you would get along quite well.

Sorry we did not get to talk about issues while you were here. I have enclosed a folder with most of the Bureau of Indian Affairs issues we are presently dealing with. I believe Congressman Synar has set up a meeting for us with Secretary Bruce Babbitt on the Arkansas Riverbed on September 23, 1993. If he is successful in getting this meeting, I hope you or someone from your office can sit in. I had hoped to get a little of your time while in Washington but I developed some kind of virus that kept me in my room except for the two essential meetings - a trip to see Ira Magaziner and the dinner with Janet Reno. This continued until the week-end and has now abated somewhat. Abraham also has the virus.