

Mr. DOOLEY Sez...

With Apologies To PETER FINLEY DUNNE (1867-1936)

The "STATE OF SEQUOYAH" - A Defeat For Self-Determination ?

With a sense of appreciation for the intestinal fortitude of Alex Adwan and the TULSA WORLD, I read with consensus a recent principal editorial, February 13, 1994 issue: **SOONER SCHIZOPHRENIA**. Although the thrust of the editorial clearly was grounded in educational funding issues and the obvious differences in political ethos of the segments of our State previously identified as: "Indian Territory" and "Oklahoma Territory", the analogy becomes more pervasive, thusly more significant.

Three passages are of particular import: "No, there is more at work here than some kind of governmental principle." and (2) "It is a difference in public attitude toward education and government."; (3) "***it was a shotgun marriage that for a variety of reasons has always been incompatible and often stormy". These quotations bear out the historical truth of occurrences in "political" machinations that took place in the late 19th century, resulting in demise of Indian Nation sovereignty. Sovereignty, guaranteed by the highest law of the land: Treaty Law!

The factual composition of the "Oklahoma Territory" and of the "Indian Territory" as well are based, in part, on a mythology that has been carefully crafted during the period beginning in the early nineteenth century, and continues to be embellished.

It was a continuation of Jefferson's approach: "Gradualism", augmented by the Jacksonian aim to liquidate all the Indian Nations, that won the day. The Bureau of Indian Affairs had first come into existence during 1824 as a part of the War Department. John C. Calhoun was the Secretary of War under President James Monroe at that time. Calhoun continued his influence over Indian affairs when he became Vice-President to Andrew Jackson in 1825. He supported the Jacksonian aim to obliterate the "Indian problem" during his tenure (1833) and subsequently returned to the Senate. Although he never won the presidency, due to a disagreement with Jackson, he never-the-less agreed with Jackson's determination to move the Indian tribes to the west. In 1849, during the Taylor administration the Bureau of Indian Affairs became part of the newly formed Department of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior in 1851 was Alexander Stuart, who is quoted in part from his official Annual Report for 1851: