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Editor
Tulsa World
P. O. Box 1770
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Dear Editor:

I read your editorial of January 19, 1993 concerning Indian car tags. I was reminded of a session about one hundred years ago.

It was 1889 and Senator Butler of the United States Territorial Committee had called in Chief Joel Mayes of the Cherokee Nation for some questions posed by the committee. "This \$200,000 from the grazing leases is an income to your government?" he asked. Chief Mayes answered, "Yes sir. It is a national revenue--\$200,000 and if you cut us off from that we would suffer for it. That is what would happen. We would have to stop our schools. We do not want to sell you that land now, I can tell you that. Chairman Butler asked, "Suppose we want to buy it?" "Well it takes two to make a bargain," responded Mayes. "One man cannot make a trade all by himself." Butler asked, "Unless he does by force?" Chief Mayes responded, "Well, of course, if it comes to that, of course, I shall give up. We are not able to fight you. If we were we would not let you take the land." The United States government canceled the leases and forced the Cherokees to sell for \$1.29 an acre. The going rate at the time was \$3.75 an acre. The land was opened to white settlement even though the treaty with the Cherokees provided the land could be opened to other Indian tribes only.

By Executive Order No. 11435, Lyndon B. Johnson removed jurisdiction of States over Indian Tribes. 25 U.S.C.A. §1323. The governmental agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency treat Indian Tribes as having equal status with States. 25 U.S.C.A. §1452(e) gives the authority to pursue commercial, industrial, or business activity or organized for the purpose of profit.

As a native-born Oklahoman, I recall that the schools received money from the Federal Government in proportion to the amount of Indian students they had. They still provide these grants to elementary and secondary school programs. 25 U.S.C.A. §2601. Since Oklahoma has an Indian population exceeding other states, it is safe to assume that Oklahoma receives more of such Federal grants than any other State.

Yours very truly,

Sue A. Schafer