

received  
11-4-93

cc: Chad Smith

1 November 1993

Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Chief Mankiller,

Hope this letter finds you well and doing well. There are some issues that concern me and I thought to write to you about them, if this letter is misdirected, please forward it to the appropriate place.

I see that Council is asking for a settlement bill from the U.S. in the matter of the Arkansas riverbed claim. Perhaps this is the only way that some semblance of justice can be achieved and for that reason I support it, let those who whine and complain about sovereignty try to sustain the Nation on it and see if they do not get thinner. My concern is that the proceeds would be given out as head payments instead of for the benefit of the whole nation. I remember going with my mother to Muskogee in the late fifties so she could get a head payment from some claim or another. As I recall, she gave the money to Save the Children for the support of a Hopi girl to buy her school supplies, etc. My Uncles and Aunts spent their payments on one thing or another and I believe that today we have little to show for it.

If the bill is passed and the U.S. actually pays the claim, perhaps we should use it to buy land for the people, perhaps as community centers or other gathering places, also for gardens, woodlots, etc. If we look to the future we can see that after we are gone to the other side, our children will have a place to live and if we care for it and then teach them likewise, there will at least be the possibility of growing food on it. Perhaps it is time to look toward regaining some of what we have lost.

Also, I would like to relocate into the Nation. Perhaps it would be like running the relocation program in reverse. In any case, I am tired of living among the white people and would like to get back close to my relatives while they yet live. If possible, I would like to get some land near my Grandmother's allotment near Keys. The problem is this, I hate dealing with realtors. I would rather pay the purchase to another Cherokee who would be willing to sell, than give a dime to a realtor for nothing but standing between us. Also, I don't want to cause hard feelings. If someone could suggest how best to proceed, it would be appreciated.

If someone could send a copy of the treatise concerning the taking of the Outlet, that would be appreciated also.