

George Washington Linn

The Scott Abstract Company

C. B. SCOTT, Bonded Abstractor

STIGLER, OKLAHOMA

PHONE 2143

March 5, 1953

Hon.
Page Belder, M.C.
House of Representatives

The Honorable Patrick J. Hurley,

My Dear Mr. Hurley:

I am a stranger to you - but you may remember my father, the late George W. Scott, a Territorial Treasurer of the Choctaw Nation under my grandfather, the late Governor Green McCurtain, last elected Governor of the Choctaws under the old Tribal laws.

We Choctaws were once honored to have had you as our Choctaw National Attorney. While we were honored to have had you serve as our Attorney, we feel we may have been the means by which you acquired a taste and liking for Washington and that our humble position may have been a stepping stone for you to rise to higher and more prominent positions. We Oklahomans, and especially we natives of Eastern Oklahoma - the old Indian Territory - are proud of a native son who has had such an illustrious and distinguished career in National affairs.

I have been informed recently that my fellow townsman and tribal member, and no doubt your good friend, the Honorable Edwin O. Clark is being considered as our next Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Clark, in my opinion, is eminently fitted for that high position by his education, his many years of association with Indians, his experience as Choctaw National Attorney, and his quiet temperament to serve all classes of people faithfully. His education is adequate. He attended school at Henry Kendall College - now Tulsa University, Centre College and the Northwestern University School of Law. He has engaged in the practice of law in Oklahoma for many years, and is considered an outstanding attorney in civil law and particularly as an authority on Indian Titles and Indian Law in general. ~~Inasmuch as an important aspect of the Indian Office is or is or should be the protection of Indian rights under the law,~~ a brilliant legal mind such as Mr. Clark possesses should certainly be an asset to the man who will serve as our next Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

It is needless to call to your attention the many valuable services Mr. Clark has rendered ~~to~~ the Republican Party. The citizens of Stigler - Indians and Whites alike, have accorded him the highest honor in our power to bestow on an admired and respected citizen by electing him Mayor of our City.

Anything you can do to assist Mr. Clark in obtaining the appointment of Commissioner of Indian Affairs will be appreciated, not only by me, but by the many Choctaw Indians who are well acquainted with him.

Arthur Young et al -
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Judicial

March 5, 1953.

The Honorable Patrick J. Hurley,

The Rep Natl Comm

923 - 15th St - NW,
Wash 5 - D.C.

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As you can see to assist in the appointment of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs will be appreciated and only by me, but by the many Choctaw Indians who are well acquainted with him.

February 3, 1953
151 E. Park, Oklahoma City

Hon. Douglas McKay
Secretary of Interior
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This letter speaks on behalf of Mr. E. O. Clark, of Stigler, Oklahoma, who seeks the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We who are Indian are aware of the importance of selecting the best man available for this position. We feel that in the past little or nothing has been done toward the solution of the problem which confronts the American Indian, the transition from his civilization to the white civilization. We can only conclude that the reason for the lack of such a constructive program lies in lack of leadership. We believe that the appointment of Mr. Clark would be a step in the right direction.

Green McCurtain, my grandfather, who was the last Governor elected by the Choctaw tribal government, and before him his brothers Jackson McCurtain and Edmund McCurtain, served their people as Governors, and carried on the Choctaw tradition for progress. You will remember that the Choctaws, one of the Five Civilized Tribes, had a constitutional government, with trial by jury and a unicameral legislature as early as 1799. As a result of the progress made by the Five Civilized Tribes, they have been assimilated by the peoples of Oklahoma, and are found everywhere in positions of responsibility, sharing their part of the burdens of citizenship. We point with pride to a member of our race serving presently as our State Governor, Johnston Murray. I might also add that I am serving now as Legal Counsel for the State of Oklahoma for the OPS. Is it not a worthy objective that we should wish for all American Indians the progress we of the Five Civilized Tribes have made?

Mr. E.O. Clark is a living monument to progress among Indians. Starting out in territorial days as an Indian boy on a farm, he has risen to the position of the leading Indian statesman in Oklahoma. As an attorney he has set a standard which all of the young attorneys are trying to follow. His position and reputation in the legal world are unsurpassed in the state. He has educated his family in the Universities of this and nearby states, and they now occupy positions of influence and culture in Oklahoma. Mr. Clark presently is in the active practice of law and busy in community affairs in which his energy has also found many outlets.

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Inevitably the question of age arises in a discussion of Mr. Clark's qualifications. Let me say that I have practiced law in the same Court, and more frequently than not have opposed Mr. Clark. It is my opinion that he has all the wisdom and judgment that years of study and thought can bring, and none of the diminishing energy, ill-health, or loss of vitality sometimes associated with the so-called declining years. As an adversary I have found him tireless, tenacious, and a great hand at burning the midnight oil. I feel that the affairs of the American Indian would be in capable and responsible hands if Mr. Clark is appointed as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I sincerely and without reservation recommend his appointment.

Respectfully yours,

McCurtain Scott

McCURTAIN SCOTT,
Attorney-at-law.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the appointment of Mr. Clark as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am glad to hear that you are in favor of his appointment. I have no objection to his appointment, and I am sure that the Indian people will be benefited by his appointment. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
McCurtain Scott

Very truly yours,
McCurtain Scott

Dear Sir:

Department of Interior
Secretary of Interior
Hon. Douglas McKay

101 N. 1st St., Oklahoma City
April 2, 1922