

Resolved by the National Council:  
That a special joint Committee  
to consist of four members of  
the House of Warriors and three  
of the House of Kings be ap-  
pointed to take the Chief's message  
and separate the same accord-  
ing to the several recommendations  
therein made and report the  
same back to Council.

Adopted

W. A. Sapaepe,  
Sp. Hofu.

A. P. M. C.  
C. K.

Concurred in

Goalexander

Pres Hofu

J. H.  
C. K.

Hofu Austin Anderson +

John Francis

James Deere

Hofu W. C. L. W. Perryman

James Haynes

Wm Perryman

Moses Sawyer

To the Hon. National Council of the Muskogee Nation:-

Gentlemen:-

I have convened you in extraordinary session at this time for the purpose of submitting to you for your consideration, the question of the allotment of our lands. At your last annual session in October, 1896 you constituted a Commission with authority to negotiate a Treaty with the Dawes Commission. The two Commissions have met and conferred with each other several times during the interim, without effecting any negotiation. In the meantime mass meetings have been held throughout our Nation and the question of allotment fully discussed by our citizens, resulting, as I have been informed, in an almost unanimous opposition to allotment. I deemed it therefore important

to convene you in extraordinary session in order that I might submit to you these facts before any further efforts are made by our Commissioners to negotiate with the Dawes Commission.

The situation must be regarded by all as a very grave one, involving, as it does, the consideration of questions entirely foreign to our laws, usages and customs, which have existed from time immemorial to the present time. In the long line of treaties heretofore made, never before have we been asked to surrender our tribal government, but in all of them we have been assured the right of self government by the most solemn sanction known to Christian civilization. Never before have we been asked to allot our lands and thereby transform the title thereto from a tribal to an individual ownership. We can consider these questions only from the lights afforded us by history and experience. From history we learn that allotment of lands have resulted in making many tribes homeless, in the carelling of the remaining tribes within circumscribed limits by military force, and by subjecting them to restrictions no less galling to human liberty than existed in the days of slavery. From experience we learn that we have peacefully, happily and prosperously occupied this country for over sixty years, under

single one of them homeless . I am aware that we have permitted some irregularities to exist in our Nation respecting grazing privileges, and the occupation of our lands by non-citizens, but both of these can and will be rectified without the means of a new treaty. It is only necessary that we shall act within the authority conferred by existing treaties to protect our best interest. If existing treaties fail to give such protection, we certainly cannot look for it from a subsequent one. I am apprised that Congress has recently enacted a law to supercede our tribal jurisdiction on the first of January next. When that date arrives the question of Constitutional law will of necessity come up for final decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, and in the event of an adverse decision by that Court then the question would properly come up for settlement by arbitration in a manner pursued by the United States Government in settling the troubles on the little Island of Hawaii. Our political identity and individuality have been fully established by repeated decisions of the Supreme Court; and our treaties have been construed to be subsisting contracts between the United States Government and the Indian tribes; and that the Government is held as fully bound by her Contracts as an individual. If these decisions are not reversible, then it follows that Congress cannot abrogate treaties and that the late law referred to is a nullity and cannot be enforced. It is not my intention however to be understood to mean any disrespect to the Congress of the United States or to exhibit any spirit of defiance to the rightful authority of that great body of law makers. I do not question the honesty of their motives, but I do question their source of information respecting my people, I do not question their sense of justice, but I do question the correctness of their method for securing my people in the exercise of their lawful rights. I have ever honored the United States Government as my great, good Father; I have faced the bullets of her enemies in defence of her stars and stripes and I trust in the sear and yellow leaf of my life I shall not be doomed to see a sacrifice of this loyalty by breaking up the homes of my self and my people. I have now

briefly presented to you my views of the situation from which you are advised that I am opposed to negotiate at this time. I therefore recommend that you amend the instructions to your commission by eliminating their authority to negotiate a treaty for the allotment of our lands. I would also suggest that you will consider and provide proper means for securing competent council to represent our Nation before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In conclusion I will express the hope that your session will be harmonious; that your labors will be characterized by dispatch and wise legislation and express the desire that you will be able to not prolong your session longer than five days, nor consider any matter not submitted to you by me,

I am very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Parker".

Principal Chief M.N.