

Okmulgee, Dec. 6, 1916.

To the Members of the National Council.

Gentlemen:

By request, you have been called in convention at this, the old national capital so much endeared to the heart of every true Muskogee Indian by past association; and for myself, I can truly assure you that it is with genuine feelings of gratitude to the Supreme being for the privilege of once more grasping the hand of friendship of so many of my friends and acquaintances.

The meeting, however, is not without a pang of sadness when we contemplate, as we must, the fact that so many of your number have passed out of our sphere where we will be unable to meet with them in council any more.

The particular purpose <sup>for</sup> which this meeting was desired, as explained to me, was to discuss the subject of certain claims preferred against our nation by certain individuals in Washington last winter, which aggregate approximately \$19,000.00.

These claims appeared decidedly adverse to our interests as I viewed the situation, but since the Interior Department did not favor them, I opposed them as best I could, and have a copy of one of my letters to the committee in opposition which I will be pleased to have you read. In this connection, I am pleased to add that neither of these claims passed Congress, but I understand will be pressed during the present winter.

I am your obedient servant,

Principal Chief of Muskogee Nation.