

Waukegan, I.T. September 23, 1866.

The Honorable

Dawes Commission

To the Five Civilized Tribes,

Gentlemen:

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th inst. submitting to us propositions hereinafter specified, and respectfully submit the following questions.

Referring to proposition first, we desire to learn what you mean by an equal division of lands. Do you refer to an equal amount of land per capita? or do you refer to an equal distribution as to quantity and value of land? Who do you mean by the term "Citizen"? Are adopted citizens by the treaty of 1866 to be included in this class?

What length of time will be required for completing allotment and putting each citizen in possession of his land? Would you consent for the tribe to allot the lands as the members thereof may desire? Would you agree to place the adopted Freedmen of our Nation upon the same terms with the Freedmen of the Choctaw Nation with reference *to* allotment of land?

Referring to your second ~~xxxxxxx~~ proposition, we desire to learn what disposition you think should be made of our Town lots and mineral lands? Do you not think that this property can be protected and controlled by the tribal ~~xxxxxxx~~ Government more satisfactory than by the U. S. Government? Do you not believe that an Indian would look after his own interest better than a White man would for him? Do you not believe that the U. S. Government is under obligation to aid the Indians in protecting this property from intrusion as much so as from intrusion upon the lands belonging to them?

cannot the tribal Government control this property by providing Municipal Governments over Towns and by collecting ground rentals for use of town lots?

Referring to your third proposition, we desire to know how you desire town cites should be laid off in our Nation and who should provide Municipal Government for them?

Referring to your fourth proposition, we desire to know how a transfer of our Tribal Courts to U.S. Courts could be made without destroying our tribal Government? What would then be our status with reference to tribal authority? Would this not destroy our right of self government? Would this not deny our citizens the right of being tried by a jury of their peers?

Referring to your fifth proposition we have no question to ask, only to know why the U.S. Government so persistently refused to let us have the \$400,000.00 Dollars we asked for last year.

Referring to your sixth proposition, we desire to know if all claims for indemnity of property destroyed by the Civil War to all our citizens would be made by your Government in the event negotiation should be effected? Would you agree to recommend to your Government a unification of the five tribes and their admission into the Union as a State? Will you agree to recommend to Congress to allow the tribe a reasonable time to prepare for Statehood?

Replying to your seventh proposition, we desire to know what kind of a Government you wish to establish over us in lieu of our present government?

In conclusion we would state that our people are very much opposed to an allotment of our country, but desire to continue to hold their lands by Tribal Patent. They are also very much opposed to a destruction of their tribal government and rely implicitly

upon their Treaties between them and the U. S. Government for protection and security from any innovation of these guarantees.

We desire to educate and enlighten our people in the White man's method of civilization and are employing every means in our power to reach that end. Many of our people are wholly ignorant of the English language and are incapable of taking care of their lands or to exercise the duties of U. S. citizens.

We have ever accorded a willingness to the wishes of the United States Government in all former demands upon us and we are still willing to comply with such other wishes or demands as the condition and interest of our people would justify; and we feel that the Government should not insist upon any immediate changes which would disturb our present relations, but should extend to us time for preparation for the changes that shall be required.

We believe the conditions complained of in our Nation are not so bad but what they can be regulated without the destruction of our tribal government. We believe the rats can be destroyed without burning the barr.

We are very respectfully,

Your friends,

W. A. Sapulpa,

John Reed,

Hotulka Martha,

Polin Brown,

Cunchart Micco.

Creek Commissioners