

Washington, D. C.,

May 24, 1916.

Hon.....

My Dear Sir:

I desire to direct your attention to the provisions of H. R. 10872, now awaiting action providing for the payment to the firm of Messrs. Stuart, Lewis, Gordon & Rutherford out of Creek funds in the Treasury of the United States of the sum of \$7,000 with interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum for a period approximating fifteen years for legal services alleged to have been rendered in behalf of the Creek Nation under contract. This claim, possibly, is correct. I do not declare that it is not. Upon its face it has the appearance of having been justified by certain exhibits that have been filed in its support; but while this is so, it is also true that the long time that has elapsed and the varied circumstances and necessities attending its origination are all so long in the past; and the claimants, who are pre-eminently intelligent and alert business men, have all these years been so strangely silent and neglectful of their interests therein that I am constrained to the belief that you are fully justified in hesitating, without further light, to set aside so large a sum of Creek monies as is asked in this bill. For myself, I may say that I have now no personal recollection of the inception of the claim, and am forced to the conjecture that a full and thorough judicial investigation of its merits is indicated, which, if made, might reveal a widely different view of the case. The Creeks have always prayed and importuned the Government to deal justly in its transactions with them; and while it is true that it has often appeared to them that their appeals were met by inadequate consideration and favor, we nevertheless recognize the fact that we, too, must mete out justice to others if we expect like treatment in return; and in this case I only ask that you prepare the way for such a procedure as will bring justice to the Creeks as well as to the beneficiaries of the bill. The claim under consideration is so antiquated and so little has ever been said of it by the claimants that it has been forgotten by many of us, and the Creek chief under whose administration it ostensibly originated, and many of the officers of the Creek Council who, if living, could testify as to its validity have long since passed away beyond the reach of any human subpoena, and I myself being taken unawares, have been quite unable at this time to offer to the committee any evidence in rebuttal, if there be any. The fact that the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior of the year 1900 and the Secretary of the Interior of the present administration, exercising the legitimate functions of their offices, have all disapproved of this claim is of itself sufficient to convince me that the enactment of the measure into a law without fuller information on the side of the Creek Nation might

do great injustice to the Creeks, and therefore ought to undergo a judicial determination.

Any claim of the Creek Nation against the Government burdened with such adverse reports from these high functionaries as we find in this case, in my judgment, would not command the respect even of being considered at all.

INTEREST.—Another feature of the bill under consideration to which I invite and especially beg your attention is the fact that, although in the report of the committee recommending "that the bill do pass," no fault or blame is anywhere mentioned as attaching to the authorities of the Creek Nation for the nonpayment of the claim during all these years, yet the committee recommends, that the bill which ruthlessly robs my people of the additional sum in interest of over \$5,000 do pass, charging the Creek Nation interest for time that has elapsed for which it was in no way responsible. This is unjust, and should not be countenanced. Let me beg of you not to lend your aid in the passage of this bill, which, because of the manifest injustice of its interest feature, may be interpreted by the designing as giving sanction to the methods of greed and graft which have run riot in transactions between individual Creeks and whites of Oklahoma, to the detriment of the former. I ask that the bill be passed over for this time, to be taken up by some future session of Congress, when the Creek Nation may be heard on its own behalf; or that authority and direction be given to the Court of Claims of the United States to take up and adjudicate the same as soon as practicable. This appears to me a perfectly just and reasonable request, and one in which the firm of Messrs. Stuart, Lewis, Gordon & Rutherford would willingly join me. I am in all sincerity,

Yours truly,

*Moly Tiger*  
Principal Chief of the Creek Nation.