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To the Muskogee People:-

In view of the near approach of the date terminating our identity as a nation, and the failure of Congress to promptly enact a law to govern the final closure of our relations with the general government as has been confidently expected; and it appearing possible that no definite action will be had in reference thereto prior to the 4th day of March next, the time of our dissolution, your undersigned delegates deem it right and proper to make this public statement to the people respecting their public interests as they appear to them. On the express invitation of the Interior Department, your delegates visited Washington several days earlier than had been intended. The Secretary of the Interior had appointed a committee and charged it with the duty of drafting an act to be proposed to the present Congress, which in its terms should provide everything necessary to the effective closure of our national affairs, and it was in order that we might offer suggestions to this committee that we had been thus early invited. The desires of your council as expressed in our instructions were presented by us in good faith to this committee. After several days the committee completed its work of drafting, which, when it came out in printed form, showed that very few indeed of the principal things we had asked for had been included in its provisions. This bill, then, went up to Congress where, after considerable delay, it was taken up

and considered by a sub-committee of the Indian Committee of the House, of which Mr. Curtis of Kansas is Chairman, where your delegates were permitted to appear and again offer suggestions and amendments. This Committee made a few changes in the original bill, but to us it was very evident that the suggestions and amendments offered by Indian delegates did not go for much. With these slight changes, the bill was reported to the House, which after considerable spirited talk and debate passed it, and it is now before the Indian Committee of the Senate, which has been giving very full hearings thereon to all parties in interest, and is the bill, copies of which we have mailed to many persons in the nation. We appeared before this Senate Committee as we had before others, and endeavored faithfully to impress upon it the reasonableness and justice of the contentions of the Creek council; but this, like the other Committees, is slow to act, and what it will eventually report is, as yet largely a matter of conjecture. There appear, however, to be sufficient grounds on which to predicate forecasts of certain features, and your delegates are of the opinion:

1st. That no provision authorizing the continuance of the Creek council, or the selection of a commission to represent the people in the final settlement of their landed and moneyed interests with the government will be included.

2nd. That a principal chief, with duties comprising principally the issuance of titles to allotments to citizens, and such other conveyances of titles to town lots and surplus lands as may be necessary to complete final settlement, will be provided.

3rd. That the national schools will be continued, supported by the funds of the nation now applicable for such purposes, until such time as the change of affairs shall provide a system of schools for the Territory.

4th. That a time not later than October next, for the closing of all rolls of citizenship will be fixed. So far as the Creeks are concerned, no new applications for enrollment except infants will be entertained. There will be other minor provisions of no great importance to the Creeks, but we may say, in short, that the work of finally closing our business is practically all placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior.

5th. That present restrictions on the sale of allotments will be so modified as to simplify existing methods and enable those desiring to do so, to sell their allotments to better advantage to themselves. We may add, in this connection, that special effort is being made to better protect the full blood Indian in all his interests.

From a statement of our national finances obtained of the department on the 12th inst. it appears that on December 31st, 1905, there stood to the credit of the Creek nation from all sources, in round numbers, \$3,104,000.00, to which will be added the interest on invested funds accruing thereafter,

the returns of sales of remaining town lots and surplus lands, and such revenues as shall yet be collected, the aggregate of which cannot be stated with any degree of accuracy. It further appears to your delegates from said statement, that the department has from time to time, without any appropriation by the Creek council, and without its knowledge, paid out large sums of money belonging to the nation on various accounts,

aggregating \$ 83,725.41. We have officially filed in the Indian office here, a demand that it take proper steps to cause the same to be restored to the Creeks in order that it may, along with other public moneys of the nation be put to the uses and purposes stipulated in agreements with the government.

It was the expectation of your council that whatever further legislation Congress enacted respecting the Creeks, would be completed before the 20th of the present month, and that your delegates would have returned, when a council could be called and the delegates' report received. From present indications, as already remarked, however, it is physically impossible for these expectations to be realized, and we have adopted the conclusion that it will be best for one of our number, Mr. G. W. Grayson, to continue to occupy this post until the act for the final disposition of the affairs of the Indian Territory shall become a law, in the hope that in these last hours an opportunity, hardly expected, may yet appear, when further concessions in the interest of our people may be obtained. In order to give proper attention to the regular routine business of the Executive office of the nation, and other matters made necessary by the on-coming change, that should be completed before the 4th of March next, principal chief P. Porter will, on about the 24th, inst. leave Washington for his office at Muscogee.

Your obedient servants,

P. Porter Principal Chief

G. W. Grayson

Creek Delegates.

Washington City, D.C.,
February 20th, 1906.