

MESSAGE OF LOCHAR HARJO

Executive Office M. N.

Okmulgee Oct. 8th / 79

To the Honorable - the House
of Kings and House of Warriors
in Council assembled

Friends and Fellow Citizens -

I have the pleasure of addressing you upon this occasion of your again assembling at the Capital of your Nation in your Representative capacity, and I congratulate you upon the health peace and prosperity our people enjoy.

The kindest feelings exist between ourselves and the Indian Nations with whom we are surrounded. I respectfully call your attention to the unsettled question of the lands settled upon by the Seminole Nation belonging to the Muskoke people and would suggest as the best mode of settling the question, that if agreeable to the Seminoles a Commission be appointed by each Muskoke and Seminole Nation; and that they be authorized to settle this question with the United States in such manner as will be just to the people of the Muskoke Nation, and satisfactory to the Seminole Nation and the United States.

I withheld my signature to bill passed by both Houses of the National Council at its last session authorizing the sale of these lands to the United States because of its importance to the Muskoke people and their being several members of the council absent when said bill passed who would have taken active parts in its discussion, I deem it just to the Muskoke people that town be represented and heard from on the question before approving said act. Further objections will be given when the bill is returned to the Council.

I call your attention to the fact that notwithstanding the laws of the United States setting apart the Country known as the Indian Territory, for the home of the Indians and the solemn treaties made in pursuance of these laws; wherein we purchased and paid for all the lands defined by the boundaries designated in the treaty of 1832 and others between our Nation and the United States and for which we paid a full and fair equivalent that we now hold a Patent for the same from said United States. Written in words - strong as language can make it - with every guarantee that it should be for us and our decendants for all time to come or so long as we exist as a people and live upon it with the right of self government and jurisdiction over all our citizens - that all intruders should be removed from foreign invasion, discord and domestic strife an attempt was made during the months of April and

May last by lawless reckless and misguided citizens of the United States to settle upon, take possession of the lands and overturn and crush our Government and take from us our rights as free men in violation of the laws treaties pledges and guarantees of their own Government.

And but for the prompt action of the President of the United States and his Secretary of the Interior in calling the Military arm of the Government we would have been overrun and crushed as a nation and people. For this service, I recommend that you pass suitable resolutions acknowledging the service and thanking the President R. B. Hayes and Secretary Carl Schurz and through them the military. And but for the prompt action of the President of the United States, and his Secretary of the Interior in calling the Military arm of the Government we would have been overrun and crushed as a Nation and people - For this service I recommend that you pass suitable resolutions acknowledging the service, and thanking President R. B. Hayes, and Secretary Carl Schurz, and through them the Military engaged therein, for their prompt action in repelling the invasion, and protecting as in our rights to our territory.

I also recommend that a resolution be passed asking the Government of the United States to remove from our Country, in accordance with treaty stipulations all citizens of that

Government, who are among us pretending to be our friends; but who contemplate, and are laboring for our ruin; and that more stringent laws be enacted by the Congress of the United States, relative to trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes imposing more severe penalties than now exist, for a violation thereof and for returning to the Indian Territory after being once removed therefrom and that Sec. 2138 of Revised Stat. U. S. preventing driving or removing of cattle from the Indian Territory except upon an order from the secretary of war connected with the subsistence of the Army be repealed.

I recommend that you take into consideration the changing of that part of the Constitution relating to the Treasurers bond - so as to place the Amount thereof to at least to the amount of Money that may annually come into his possession. Our day-schools are progressing about as heretofore. Competent teachers have been employed. And where qualifications were equal preference has been given to native teachers. The Baptist Mission school to be established in the southwest part of this nation is about to be commenced. Dr. William H. McIntosh Corresponding Secretary Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is here looking after the erection of the necessary buildings.

I cannot too strongly urge the education of the youth of our Country, both Male and female, but particularly the

latter, as they are our first and earliest teachers, it is very important they should be cultivated, educated, and refined. Such branches of education should be taught as will best qualify each sex for the stations and duties which best suits their condition in life. Christianity, Education, Industry, and Economy are the the sure safe guards of every nation; and leads to prosperity and happiness; every people.

I recommend some additional legislation, requiring a rigid enforcement of all laws of the Muskoke Nation by the Executive Officers, and that a severe penalty be placed upon those who fail or neglect to perform their duties. This is due to good government and the protection of the people.

After the invasion of our Territory in April last a convention of the nations and tribes therein was called to meet at Eufaula in May - and in July. Deem it an emergency, I appointed Delegates to attend the same with instructions to act with the Representatives of the other nation for the best interest of all concerned. These Delegates incurred expenses in going to - while there - and in