

U.S. SENATE,
 COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
 December 6, 1967.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
 Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,
 U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: It is my understanding that your committee has received President Johnson's nomination of John T. Vance, Richard W. Yarborough, and Jerome K. Kuykendall to be Commissioners of the Indian Claims Commission.

I think the attached correspondence from the Ponca Tribal Council will outline the concern arising from the Commission's inability to act on pending cases due to the existing vacancies. After you have had a chance to review this matter, I am sure you will feel, as I do, that prompt action on these nominations would be of great help to all those who have cases before the Commission.

Therefore, I am writing to request that you give consideration to placing these nominations on your committee's schedule at the earliest possible time.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

A. S. MIKE MONRONEY.

PONCA TRIBAL COUNCIL,
 Ponca City, Okla., November 21, 1967.

Hon. MIKE MONRONEY,
 U.S. Senate,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MONRONEY: The enclosed copy of a letter we received recently from our attorney is self-explanatory.

The fact that none of the vacancies in the Commission have been filled creates a sense of urgency and concern for those of us who still have cases pending with the Commission.

We realize the President has many problems to contend with but the fact remains as you know, that the Commission has a limited life span set by Congress in which to complete its cases.

Therefore, we urge that you bring this matter to the attention of the President as soon as possible so that he can take the necessary action in order to have the vacancies filled.

Sincerely,

THURMAN RHODD, *Chairman.*
 E. R. PENSONEAU, *Secretary.*
 JOHN WILLIAMS, *Vice Chairman.*
 MITCHELL ROY, *Member.*
 SYLVESTER KEMBLE, *Member.*
 MARVIN LITTLEHOE, *Member.*

SONNENSCHNEIN LEVINSON CARLIN NATH & ROSENTHAL,
 Chicago, Ill., November 9, 1967.

Mr. EDWARD R. PENSONEAU,
 Secretary-Treasurer, Ponca Tribal Council,
 Ponca City, Okla.

DEAR MR. PENSONEAU: Thank you for your letter of November 2.

There have been no recent developments since we filed our findings and brief in Docket 322 before the Indian Claims Commission and filed our reply brief in Docket 323 before the Court of Claims.

As to the first case, the Government has obtained leave to November 24 to file its brief and proposed findings. As to the second case, we are waiting to hear from the Court of Claims to schedule oral arguments.

As you know, the Indian Claims Commission is not able to make decisions at the present time. The number of commissioners has been increased to five so that three are required for a quorum. However, Chief Commissioner Watkins resigned as of October 1 and none of the vacancies has been filled. Until the President appoints a commission, Commissioners Holt and Scott must carry on without making more than routine decisions.

With kind regards to all,

Sincerely,

EDWIN A. ROTHSCHILD.