

B-1 D

McPherson, Kansas

July 8 - 1975

Sen. Robert Dole  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Can you say a good word  
for the American Indian?

It is a national disgrace how  
our Government has dealt with all  
the tribes from the beginning.

I saw the film and discussion  
program on P.B.S. last night dealing  
with the problems of the Shoshone  
Indians and I can understand how  
frustrated they are when they can't  
make their voices heard. Those  
~~lawyers~~ and men from the Indian  
Affairs are like a bunch of Robots.

I am a member of the Pottawatomie  
tribe of Oklahoma and we have gone  
through the same run around -  
My father was born in Kansas as



their tribe was pushed from Michigan to Iowa to Kansas and half of them to Oklahoma. My Grandfather finally got a bill through Congress so he could get land in Oklahoma where they couldn't move him & his family again -

I think the old woman in the film had something when she said 'Dam those white people' - It does seem most are only interested in what they can get for themselves.

The Pottawatomie Indians have a claim pending - They say the money has been appropriated but the Indians have to do several things before payment can be made and a Committee must report but they don't report. Do you know about this?

If they owe us why don't they pay like we have to do when we owe the Government anything?

Thank you  
if you can help in our behalf.

and why can't the Government  
make a fair and honest deal  
with the Shoshones?

Yours truly

507 E. Elizabeth  
McPherson, Kansas  
67460



Dockets #217

15K

29J

Docket

146

15M

29K

# 6, 401, 689.68 — 2 claims

Congress has appropriated

Jan. 3, 1974

Dec. 27, 1974

P.L. 93-134 (87<sup>vol.</sup> p. 466 statute)

Sec. of Interior

Robert Pennington (343-2497)



*Civil Rights / Minority  
Indians*

July 21, 1975

[REDACTED]  
507 East Elizabeth  
McPherson, Kansas 67460

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED]:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 8. I certainly appreciated receiving the benefit of your comments about the plight of the American Indian in our society today.

Would agree with you that it is certainly important for our government to resolve as soon as possible the outstanding reimbursements which are due the various tribes for property which was taken from them during the nineteenth century. With respect to the Pottawatomie Indian claims which you mentioned in your letter, Congress has already appropriated a total of \$6,401,689.68 during 1974 for payment purposes. However, it is now necessary for the Secretary of the Interior to complete his determination on the proper distribution of these funds among the Pottawatomie tribe. Knowing of your particular interest in this matter, I have today written to Secretary of the Interior, Stanley H. Haskin, to inquire about the present status of that decision, and to urge that prompt action be taken to distribute these funds. Be assured of my continuing interest and attention to this matter.

Again, thank you so much for writing. Be sure to let me know if I can be of further help in any way.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE  
United States Senate

BD:bdv