

Osoto Kansas  
August 14<sup>th</sup> 1867

Sir

The Chiefs and members of the Shawnee Council join in requesting me to submit to you the following statements in regard to the ~~present~~ system of Appointing Guardians for Minor Shawnee Children and of Administrators to administer upon the estates of deceased Members of the Tribe, and ask for a change in the rules of the Dept. You are aware that under existing regulations emanating from your office, both Administrators and Guardians have to be appointed by the Probate Judge of the County in which the minor resides or the estates are situated, and under the laws of this State regulating fees, we find in many cases where small estates have been administered upon, that the expenses attending the issuing of letters of Administration &c have frequently

consumed the entire estate, leaving nothing for the support of destitute minor children. we therefore respectfully but most earnestly request that the appointing power be transferred from the County Probate Court to the Shawnee Indian Council.

In addition to the above reason, we would add, that since the publication of the decision, of the US Supreme Court, in Indian Tax Case, that the prejudices and feelings, of most our County officials, are very bitter against the Indians, and the County Commissioners have informed me, that no more business, should be transacted by County Officials, for Indians unless, the Indian first advanced the necessary charges for transacting the same.

We believe the leading men of the Tribe, possess all the requisite qualifications for transacting their domestic affairs in their own way, satisfactory both

to themselves, and to the Department, and  
thereby save the nation thousands of dollars

I am Sir

Hon H G Taylor  
Comm<sup>r</sup> of Ind Affairs  
Washington DC

Very Respectfully  
Your Oth Servt  
H L Taylor  
US Agent