

begin the adoption process since we spent so much on the failed attempt.

AFTER JEFFREY'S RETURN TO HIS MOTHER

We have been told that after this mess happened, Scott Johnson was called before tribal authorities and told to change his ways concerning his representation of the tribe's position on adoption. This is born out by his behavior. During the time we had Jeffrey in our home, Mr. Johnson called our home and talked to Kathy. He told her we were still the best place for Jeffrey to be and he still would continue to fight for that to happen. He had not, at that time, changed his opinion at all.

After his meeting with tribal authorities, we are told that he now says that he never promised us that the tribe would consider us as an adoptive placement for the child and that the tribe would follow placement guidelines as it always does, without exception. Obviously, his letter is clear on this point.

Both of us, during separate conversations with Mr. Johnson, expressed our concern over him personally and the possible negative impact he may suffer for his bold and appropriate position for the best interests of this child. He apparently has changed his position.

Two days after the article about the failed adoption was in the May 28, 1995 Tulsa World, Shelly S. Crow, Second Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation called Rick at the office and wanted to meet. Within a week after that, Ms. Crow showed up at the courthouse and met with him. She informed Rick that she was very disturbed by the article and wanted to know what she could do to make everything right. She said something like what happened to us should never happen and that the tribe was concerned about Indian children. She also said that sometimes the best thing for Indian children was to be placed outside an Indian family, "as in your case."

Ms. Crow informed me that she was contacted by the paternal grandmother and told of the circumstances. She proceeded to write letters to put a stop to the adoption and insisted that the tribe intervene just as it eventually did. I asked her if she was aware that Mr. Johnson had approved our home when she decided to intervene and she said she did not know that nor had she seen the letter. She was also surprised to learn that the paternal grandmother had seven other grandchildren living with her on a permanent basis and that all were being supported by state and tribal assistance in substandard housing. She acted without even considering the best interests of Jeffrey.

Since Ms. Crow felt so guilty about her actions, she was very free with even more information. She went on to tell me that after Mr. Johnson changed his "official" position, he got promoted to a better/easier job with an extra \$3,000 a year salary increase. She believed that Mr. Johnson had been reprimanded at least four times in recent years by the tribe for various infractions while employed by the tribe.

Her last comment about Mr. Johnson was that his father worked somewhere in the federal government, possibly for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Because of this, and the fact that if the tribe did anything to Mr. Johnson the federal government may cut funding, Ms. Crow thought the tribe would put up with him no matter what he did wrong.

CONCLUSION

The Creek Nation should not be allowed to ruin so many innocent children by their selfish, destructive conduct. Not only have they shattered our lives, after encouraging us to go forward with this adoption, but they have sentenced Jeffrey to live a life in an environ-

ment where he was not wanted and could not be provided for adequately—They have not only destroyed our lives, but, more importantly, Jeffrey's.

In addition, because we committed all of our resources to this adoption, only after getting the approval by the tribe, we were effectively prevented from attempting to adopt again for some time.

The Creek Nation should suffer for the pain they have caused.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Okmulgee, OK, December 29, 1994.

Mr. JOHN O'CONNOR,
Newton and O'Conner Law Firm,
Tulsa, OK.

DEAR MR. O'CONNOR. A homestudy was conducted on the home of Richard Randal and Kathy Jean Clarke for the purpose of placing the unborn child of Ms. Shanon Boar whose spouse and father of the said child is an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The home was found to be of extraordinary quality. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke are people of integrity with high morals and quality values. Seldom have I met a couple with such character and desire to be good parents. Rarely do I have the opportunity to enthusiastically recommend a home for placement without reservation. In this instance however, I am delighted to approve this home for placement.

As a duly appointed Officer of the Court and representative of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Children and Family Services we accept the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke as suitable placement for the unborn child of Ms. Shanon Bear. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation declines to intervene in the adoptive placement of said child to the Clarke family. However, if an alternate placement is made, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reserves the right to intervene at a later time.

SCOTT A. JOHNSON,
Division Manager.

BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT FOR
TOM WELCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor this evening to ask for the Nation's help. A long time family friend of mine, Tom Welch, who lives in the town of Chelmsford, MA, is in serious need of a bone marrow transplant. Tom is a community activist, who tirelessly works to help others. He is employed by Hewlett Packard and he also serves as a town selectman—a position to which he was recently elected. He has a wife, Maureen, and two sons—a family to which he is absolutely committed.

Well-read and smart; a lover of jazz music, Tom is—to all who know him—an all around great guy. That is why it is with great sadness that I make this plea tonight.

In January of this year, Tom was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Disorder, a condition which inhibits reproduction of the body's blood cells and destroys its ability to combat infection. Tom's condition is the result of long-term exposure to several forms of radiation therapy as, over the years, he has battled Hodgekin's Disease, Mela-

noma, and Basil-Cell Carcinoma. While his cancer is in remission, his life is now threatened by this immuno-deficient condition, and the last hope for a cure is to perform a bone marrow transplant. Such a procedure would replace his damaged bone marrow with another person's, much healthier marrow, restoring his body's blood-cell production and adding years onto his life. Since Tom is in good health, the procedure should be successful; the real obstacle is finding an acceptable donor match.

Each year over 9,000 Americans are diagnosed with Tom's condition. Unfortunately, less than 30 percent of those in need ever receive a bone marrow transplant. Matching potential donors is an extremely difficult process. Currently, two agencies in the United States are coordinating the effort: The American Bone Marrow Donor Registry, and the National Marrow Donor Program. Worldwide, over 3 million potential donors have been cataloged, but the demand for transplants still outnumbers the known supply.

Today, in my district, the friends of Tom Welch are holding a donor drive in an attempt to find a match for Tom, and this where I need America's help. I want to first encourage all Americans to contact their local donor registry to be listed as a potential donor. I also want to urge for help with the tremendous financial burden involved with such a drive. Take Tom's case for example, the cost to catalog each potential donor is approximately \$50. One can easily see that such a drive quickly becomes very expensive.

So tonight I am asking, on behalf of Tom Welch and all other patients in need of a bone marrow transplant, for help. Behind me is the address and phone number of the friends of Tom Welch. I urge everyone to call and pledge your support.

In closing, I want Tom and Maureen to know that they are in my prayers and in the prayers of people across the nation. With the help of the entire Nation, donors will be found for Tom and all others in need.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would request that Members address the Chair and not the television audience.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]