

Office Supt Ind Affairs

Fort Smith July 20th 1860

Sir
 In answer to your letter of 9th inst I must
 say that I know of no law or treaty stipulation
 which would authorize the Agent, or the Government,
 to lease to white men any portion of the lands
 of the Seminoles, Shawnees, or the Chickasaws, for any
 purpose whatever. The Indians may, with
 the permission of the Court of Indian Affairs, have
 the right to make such lease themselves, and
 if they desire to do so I would recommend
 that they make application therefor to the
 Commissioner for such purposes.

Very Respectfully

Elias Keetch

Supt Ind Affs

A. J. Horn Esq

Asst Comm Agent

Canton, Tenn