

ablest doctors, lawyers, judges, scholars, sprung from the loins of the Cherokees. Their children, our children, are in this college. They embrace virtually every high school in eastern Oklahoma. At statehood, our people turned over to the new state 126 public schools and two colleges. Our people filled every court house and every school house with people of competency and talent. Those of you who are older here, you know it's the truth. No other segment of the American population can claim anything like that, like a person. So then who, who are the Cherokees? I've examined the program and of course, I know the eminent people who preceeded me and I'm certain that you, those of you who have attended this seminar, you've learned much if you didn't already know, much about the Cherokee people. Colonel Hagerstrand has suggested that I attempt to confine my remarks to the legal aspects of our people, of their institutions of government. To you, it may appear if that wouldn't be a difficult assignment for a fellow who professes to be a lawyer. It isn't a difficult assignment, it's the, it is an assignment, however, that, it has many facets. It's probably the most complicated of all of the phases of our history, is the legal relationship of our people with the people in the government of the United States and the consequences that have grown out of that relationship which provides the legal story of our people. You find the traces of the story in the decisions of the highest court in the Nation as well as in the decisions of the lower courts. Some of our litigation is progressing right at this moment in the Supreme Court of the United States, that of the Arkansas River Bed Case involving a claim of title to approximately six million dollars worth of property.

Another phase of our case involving the title and the value of the land which was taken from us, given to the Osages, to the Pawnees, the Otoes,