

I tried to explain a moment ago. In other words, you will lose a part of your western lands. Now, when the five republics, representatives from the five republics in Fort Smith, Arkansas, heard all these remarks. They, in turn got their heads together and all mutually agreed, "We will not sign the treaty in Fort Smith, Arkansas. We weren't instructed when we left Tahlequah, and as were the four capitols that we would peace with the Federal Government. And we will make peace among ourselves, but when you tell us that we must treat our freedman our ex-Negro slaves as we treat our people, and when you tell us that we will give up parts of our land, this, we will not sign. So, they refused to sign. So, the Federal Government in turn told them--the five representatives, in fact, some of them had more than one, some representing the your two factions in some cases. So, when they heard that you will make a long trip to Washington D.C. And, there, you will sign the five treaties in Washington. Now, my idea is this, and I can't document it that perhaps the Federal Government realized or thought something like this: if we can get them farther away from home, we can do a better job in negotiating than maybe in Fort Smith, Arkansas. So, they in turn, will come back to Tahlequah and to other places, other tribes, make plans for the long trip. They will leave in the late summer of 1886, arrive in August of the same year, naturally, 1866. So, they're in Washington for several weeks, the Federal Government and the Five Civilized tribes will negotiate and, if you look at the map to your left, this is how Oklahoma looked before they arrived in Washington in August, 1866. At this moment, we won't have time to discuss this problem heee. It happens to be other tribes, small tribes, moved into the region in the early 1830's, and I doubt if we have time-- we might say a word about this covering, but as far as this region, again,