

They want the loan mainly for the ready money. We don't have money now to loan Indians for the purpose of getting started in farming. But if there was any real hope that any applicant could succeed, we would send them to the Farmers Home Administration and try to help them get a loan through this regular agency. Our policy now is to encourage the Indians who are serious and eligible to get the loans they need through the same agencies that anyone else would.

The Revolving Loan Fund we talked about before was made possible by the Indian Reorganization Act (Wheeler-Howard Act) in 1934. Then in 1936 the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (Thomas-Rogers) was passed, which made it possible for Oklahoma Indians to organize and participate in revolving fund programs. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes organized as a tribe in 1948 (Muriel Wright says they organized in 1937--jj), and this made them eligible to borrow from the government and so forth. They had to have a tribal government before they could do this. Before that, however Indian individuals were eligible for what were called United States Direct Loans.

By 1957 the loans were in good shape and would pay off. Some of these loans that were foreclosed could have been extended, I.