

(Central Farm Chapter?)

ORGANIZE CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO COUNCIL - CONTROL IN WASHINGTON

Central Farm Chapter. And that was the beginning of the organization movement for the tribe. At that time well they didn't have no funds of any kind. So, I don't remember who told me, to write to the congressman. At that time the congressman was Elmer Thomas, congressman from what is now the representative of Smith congressional district now. Well, so I wrote to Elmer Thomas in Washington, D.C. asking him, if there was any funds that could be used for Indians, you know where they could use it for farming and buying equipment or anything like that. So in few days I got letter from him and said it was a certain fund available for the tribes in the United States and the Cheyennes-Arapahoes were entitled for that if they asked for it. Said the Cheyenne-Arapahoes had to organize a committee of some kind so they could be recognized. So that way they could borrow up to \$10,000. for farm operations and so forth. I still have a copy of that letter right now.

(That you wrote to Thomas?)

Yeah. So there was a fellow named, he was an extension agent Mr. Gutterd.

(Gutterd?)

Yeah, he got hold of that letter some way, he got hold of the information that I was running to congressman in Washington and about this money and he got pretty sore about it.

(He wouldn't do anything would he?)

No, he wasn't doing nothing. He got sore about it, he told us, we had a meeting in Watonga, I think it was the second or third meeting we had in Watonga after we organized this Central Farm Chapter. Boy, he come out and told the Indians, said "One of your members of the Cheyennes, wrote to the Washington and asked for funds," and said, "There was no such funds," he said. So that was the beginning of the revolving funds of the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribes.

(You did get the money though didn't you?)