

within one who has Indian blood within them, the fact that we were such a part of this country, this great America. And I hope in this day that we are living today, this day 16th, 1968, that the American people will not only look forward but step forward and among those will be the first Americans, the American Indian, and that he will be taking his place in society with dignity always. Because that is one of the traits that we have as a people. And he'll make his contribution to America as he always has, because America could not be America without the American Indian. I think I'm a little bit, maybe not remorse, but I'm a little bit deep in my thoughts about what this all means to us today as American Indians, our way of life, our cultural background, - our heritage - and they are all so much a part of each one of us. And I think about all of the good philosophy of my father and none of it has ever set me wrong. He used to say, "Be a good listener. You learn more by listening." And another expression he used was, when he had reference to an individual, would say, "He talks too much." And when I was young, I couldn't understand that. But a good listener, he picks up and he listens, and in time they show their true colors, and in time he is the most valuable of the lot. And I see all this now. And I think too, the fact we shared so much as young people and being a close knit group, we shared because we felt that we had to. We were orphaned and our parents were very good parents to us and having shared together made for a closeness. And another thing, my dad used to say, he said, "You be good to one another. You can talk about one another to one another because you are the same, but do not go out and talk to others about one another. And this is like the old saying, "Don't hang your dirty linen out for everybody to see." This is what he meant, but he was saying it another way. And when I look back on my childhood, spend in the country among the beautiful country of the Osage, the prairies and hills and creeks and rocks and everything combined. I felt very close to the land, and I think Indian people do feel very close to the