

unselfishly in behalf of the Cherokee people at a time when we didn't even have funds to hold these meetings. And they paid their own way and they have unselfishly given of their own time and efforts in behalf of the Cherokees. But the time is coming, we're all getting older, the time coming with new programs and greater efforts to add them to the forward progress of the Cherokees, and they are on the march, and I think the election of these representatives by the community, a lot of them will step forward, and I want to thank all of the community for having participated in this. These tribal programs are your programs. They belong to the Cherokees. They're not the programs of the executive committee, my programs, they are your programs, we want you to participate 100%. Now, I think I have mentioned this many times and in closing one more time, September 7, 1937, I resigned from the Cherokee Tribe as principal chief. Now that was never accepted by the Department of Interior, the President or the Secretary of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner, and on behalf of our Cherokee Executive Committee, they also encouraged me to please stay on, I received many letters, the Bureau of Indian Affairs received many letters requesting that I continue, and I agreed to continue that it could be arranged that the Cherokees could have an election and they could choose their own chief. I'm happy to report--and I think the encouragement that Senator Monroney gave us this morning indicates that day is in the offing. I think that when congress, after recess, reconvenes that we will see that a bill is on the floor that the congress will permit the Cherokees, for the first time, since the dissolution of Cherokee Nation as such to have an opportunity to select their representatives. Now, I want you to know that a committee has been set up, and the chairman of that committee is Crosslin Smith and Mr. Richard Shipley (?) of the Cherokee Executive Committee and Calvin Nakedhead, Mr. Henry Doublehead, Mr. Virgil Harrington, area director from in the Muskogee office and then when it's all finished and recommendations are wrapped up, I'm going to again call on my