

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(November 14, 1968. I am in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Waters, Ponca City, Oklahoma. I am Leonard Maker, Osage. I am representing the American Indian Institute at the University of Oklahoma. At this time I am interviewing one of the most outstanding men of his tribe and of his talents. He is a Ponca Indian and he is Mr. Sylvester Warrior.)

RESENTS GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN TRIBAL CUSTOMS

As far back as I can remember, from the days of my childhood until now, I have always been interested in the social life and the religious life of my people, the Ponca Indian. My sources of information comes from various people that I became acquainted with as from my own people, that is my immediate family, my relatives and other places that I went to where men were talking about a different life or the different dances, ceremonial ritualistic dances, religious dances of the Poncas, of the years ago, at the time before the removal of the Poncas when they were along the Missouri River in South Dakota and Nebraska. In my day and time, we were forced to go to school. And when I entered school, I still remember vividly, clearly, all the stories and folk tales, which is equivalent to the fairy tales of the Caucasian races, told to me and that I heard from my mother and my father and my grandparents, real well. But then, as when I entered school, due to learning the language and other book learnings, I soon forgot all of these--most of the stories that I heard from my people. But as time went on, I became more or less interested in the songs and in the--as I mentioned before, the different kinds of dances that I had heard that our people had danced, way before my time, back up there prior to their removal to the Indian Territory. And some of these dances were abolished by the government and some were considered so sacred that they did not pass the dances to the next generation, for the simple reason that they were considered sacred and the people that would know anything about it eventually soon died out as time went on. For instance, we--what