

INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT AND SUBSEQUENT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE  
ECONOMIC STATUS OF INDIANS

But let's get back to our Indians-- Now, there were several programs that were proposed to our three tribes here. Of course we're just like the democrats and republicans, you know-- when these programs--Thomas-Rogers and Howard-Wheeler--their Bill, you know--I don't know which one it was--Thomas-Rogers or Howard-Wheeler--I think it was Howard-Wheeler that was introduced to the three tribes--K-C-A (Indian Reorganization Act or Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, in early thirties). And these fellows that was for it, they'd come around our community, you know, and try to encourage the leaders in what kind of a program that was going to be. They're going to come in with loans. They could build a new home or start farming. And money could be planning--he could buy his equipment or whatever he needs to go into farming. I believe the three tribes north of the river accepted that. I don't know which bill it was--anyway, this Howard-Wheeler and Thomas-Rogers bills--I don't know which. And these Wichitas and Caddoes and Delawares, they operate under that system. I believe it just lost it. Just like we had three organizations, or associations, during the time I was representing my tribe. But this first one, well, I wasn't a committee man then, but I remember. It was what they called the Washita Valley Association. I believe just one fellow done pretty good out of that. It was open to any young man that wants to go into some sort of business. This fellow is still living today. That's Paul Edge--he's a Caddo, I think. And I think he was associated--he was one of the officials in this Association. Well, just about the time World War II broke out, and in our three tribes, we didn't have nothing set up for our young mens. Some of them is already starting to come in, you know. What I mean is, they were discharged from the service (after World War II), and we set up kind of a committee to see if we wouldn't find something for them to do. Give them some kind of good support. So at that time I was on the Land and Resources Committee. Because inside of the (Business) Committee we're organized, you know. We had--there was two Apaches and five Kiowas and five Comanches. There were several of those