

A Quote: The American Indian, a portrait in limbo by Peter Forbe;
The quadrennial election never failed to evoke compassion for the vanishing American. And this year the tragic comedy is again being played with style. The poor Indian is once more the theme of position papers and convention planks. As it did four years ago, the administration has sent a message to Congress that repeats the aspirations of the Great White Father for his red children. Better education, better housing, better health care, better job training. Since better is a relative word the great White Father has pin-pointed how much better he has in mind. A mere twelve per cent increase from last years incredibly low, fantastically mismanaged budget. Politicians of both parties are making their usual salutes to the progress of the Red man in adopting to a white man's world. Vice President Hubert Humphrey states that tuberculosis among Indians declined fifty-five percent since 1955 but he neglects to add the fact that the Indian death rate from tuberculosis is still seven times that of the American population as a whole. Perhaps the least politically motivated, obsequious to the Red Man was Senator Robert F. Kennedy's inquiry just before his assassination into the shame of Indian education.

(Interruption.)

(Today, I'm interviewing Wesley Proctor. Wesley is a member of a committee here in Tahlequah that is called the Original Cherokee Community Project Committee. Is that correct, Wesley?)

Yes, it's an organization of the Cherokee. It's an organization of the Cherokees working together to strive to a certain goal, what has been done to Cherokees. It's not to undo what has been done but to stop the things that is being done to the Cherokees. For example, I would give a mere