

Unidentified Man: I want to extend my congratulations to principal Chief Harry J. W. Belvin of the Choctaw tribe of Oklahoma. This is in honor of him as an American and has been principal chief of his tribe since 1948. And who has honored by the electorate to serve as a member of the House in your State Legislature. As long as 1959 he was deservedly dedicated as outstanding American Indian by the Anadarko Indian Exposition. We on the National Council are proud of his record of leadership. And are happy to join in paying tribute to him (words not clear)-- (Applause) We have a wire from a citizen of McAlester who also served with out distinguished chief. (Reads from telegram) "It is with much regret that I will be unable to join you on Sunday, October 6, honoring Chief J. W. Belvin and the Choctaw Nation. Would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chief on his many accomplishments of leadership of the Choctaw Nation." Sincerely, George Nigh, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Oklahoma. (Applause) My privilege to do that which Chief Belvin is often called on to do and that is to make a presentation to him in recognition of the many, many accomplishments that have been his in leading, not only to Choctaws, but all of the people of Oklahoma, in progressive effort to grow and prosper. I present this, today, on behalf of the Choctaw Board of which Mr. Evanson is the chairman. And also on behalf of Pittsburg County Historical Association. Chief Belvin, I'd like to ask you to come forward, sir, at this time. I know that everyone here joins me in congratulating you on this recognition which you are deservedly, receiving today. My privilege to present to you this plaque and I'd like to read it before presenting it. (Reads plaque) "In appreciation for the support and cooperation of the Choctaw Nation and it's great Chief Harry J. W. Belvin from the Choctaw Board and the Pittsburg County Historical Association, October 6, 1968." Congratulations. (Much applause)