

to learn this thing too. So we really don't have the proud Indian. And these Indians that have excepted the ways of the services that have been extended to them in the past are, even still, proud to say there are some Indian people that have refused and stood their own ground and will keep their self-respect, their real pride, and dig out a life or carve out a life no matter whether they're poor, rich, or how many in their family--that's besides the point. They are the proud Indian people. I think it's time that people began to realize that if an Indian is going to progress he's gonna have to do it on his own and he's gonna have to receive the credit for doin' this not the welfare department or not the relocation officers or counselors. I think too long have we been fighting over the idea of trying to get the credit for helping the Indians.

(The fact that he's been--was called a ward without even citizenship for a great many years is one indication of the attitude that was held toward the Indian in general. You mentioned a few minutes ago about someone that was put in jail for not conforming or doing something. What was that you were talking about? I think that was some of your relatives wasn't it or something your grandparents--)

Oh, it was my grandfather, Redbird Smith, on my father's side and then on my mother's side, Ellie McCoy. They stood fast and wouldn't let their lands be restricted--wouldn't except allotted land based on their opinion. They were given a land containin' so many acres and covering a territory in which they could do their living and whatever they wanted to do. They wanted to have their own way of managin' their own affairs within their own territory and really they wasn't asking any assistance at the time. They only were asking to be left alone and they were willin' to fit into the society that they were placed in at the time. But, yet, they were forced to except restrictions thus settin' them and teaching them to give up their pride and become totally dependedn upon the United States Government. I think the United States Government is responsible for takin' away the inner feelings--the thing that makes a man--the things that creates pride. And I think, if at that time, the United States Government could have utilized a little bit of thinking and a little bit of understanding, I think the whole outlook--the Indian outlook, today, would have been