

but the Treaty of '66 ceded nothing. No part, not one foot of the land that all the oil was discovered in the great Osage tract were the proof in this case show that in 1939 two hundred and thirty-six million dollars in oil. Bonuses and royalties have been paid for twenty-two hundred and twenty-nine Osage Indians who the Government settled upon that land in 1872, under an act of Congress. We can't recover the oil. We planned that whatever was there belonged to the Cherokees. We will argue here and this isn't anybody here, please, this is off the record. We'll argue and I believe it, just as much as I believe my name is Earl Pierce, that our people would not be in need of outside concern today, our people would not be in need of the feverish activity; of men like Vice-Chief Victory, Colonel Hagerstrand, Anna Kilpatrick, Chief Keeler, you each of you, if the responsible officers of the Government of the United States had not mis-read our Treaty of '66 with their government. The ones who did the misreading of the instrument were lawyers, some of them better than I am. I can't believe that they were, that they read it innocently and that they were mistaken innocently. The language is plain. The word cede, c-e-d-e, is not in the Cherokee Treaty of 1866 like it is in the Choctaw, the Creek, Seminole, and the Chickasaw treaties of the same year, made by the same Government, made it in the same summer, made under circumstances of conditions the same as ours. If we had been, in other words, left alone, I mean literally, left alone with our own property. Every Cherokee today would, would be, by comparison, immensely well-to-do. We'd have no poor people. In fact, at statehood, we didn't have a single pauper as it was. In fact, at statehood we didn't have a single improverished person and not a single one of our Cherokees over six years of age was illiterate, not one, in statehood in 1907. And our people accomplished that remarkable record without reaching and obtaining or seeking a single dime from the people