

Right. And they recommended and he appointed it.

(Course now, Harry S. Truman, elected, appointed W.W. Keeler 20 yrs. ago and times have changed an awfully lot in 20 yrs. and people have changed an awfully lot. And according to our way of government it should be democratic and people should have voice in who they decide is their, well like in voting in our own President. So do you feel like personally that you would like to have open and free elections?)

If it came down to where I'm voting at, whether or not we'd have free elections or the way it is now, I'd vote for free elections.

(Yeah.)

I'd like to see it. Keeler has stated he'd like to see it. Whether or not this is true, I don't know. I only know what I read.

(In other words they have to change that bill in congress before. . .ah, you can't just all of a sudden say "we're going to have democratic elections.")

(In other words it has to be changed in congress before they can do that.)

I don't know enough about the structure of the tribal Cherokee government, to know whether or not we have to have permission from congress to change the way of our constitution. But in 1907, the Cherokee Nation was dissolved because of statehood. And I just thought that we maintained the government to govern our own affairs and not really be connected with the Federal Government because the Nation was dissolved. Well, of course in 1900. . .before it was statehood, we were just like another country, inside the United States.

(Like a Nation within a Nation?)

Right. We had our own laws, and we had our own law enforcements, our own courts, and our own school system.

(Uh-huh.)

In 1907, this was dissolved and we became statehood with the United States.

(Hummm.....)

So, as I said, I'm not familiar with the structure, not too familiar with the tribal government.