

CONCERNING LEADERSHIP AND PERSONNEL

(But you would be for democratic elections?)

Right. Uh-huh, I believe anybody would be. It's just how you go about getting these democratic things.

(Because if these things ever do start paying off, the restaurant, the Arts & Crafts shops, the "Drama" and all these things and money does start coming in and I know that the Cherokees do have some money now otherwise they couldn't loan the Historical Society money.)

That's right.

(Do you feel like that some time or other you would like to have a say so in how that money is spent?)

Of course, anybody would want to have a say so.

(And in issues that effect your lives and the lives of your children.)

But I question the ability, or are there Indian leaders that have the ability to advance the Cherokee tribe. The way it has advanced thus far. I guess it has advanced because we got the Restaurant, our own offices and what have you. If this organization over here that wants free elections and they want Indians in there, by Indians I mean someone that looks like me.

(They mean half-blood or more.)

Uh-huh, do we have enough leaders to fill those positions? Do we have a leader who has the capabilities of W.W. Keeler?

(What do you think about Ralph Keen?)

I think Ralph Keen is a damn good guy. Personally I didn't like him. I didn't like his attitude.

(Do you mean his personality?)

Right, but professionally I don't think we could have done any better, because he knew his job. I wasn't that familiar with what was going on. Just from the outside quick glance, I'd say he did a pretty good job.

(Well when he came, they didn't even have the newspaper started. That was a year and half ago, wasn't it?)