

Henderson: --I think one of the things I would be most interested in are the kinds of problems that you would have in trying to get a house. That is, dealing with tribal committeemen and B.I.A. people.

BIRDIE'S EXPERIENCE TRYING TO GET B.I.A. LOAN TO REMODEL HOUSE

Birdie: I have a lot to say against those people! They're not any help. They're not any help at all. We just come from there yesterday. She's (Roberta) has got her application in for housing. Well, mine is just for water. They try to talk me into this housing, but as things stand, you know, we've got this house and try to do the best we can. Try to repair it. It's old house. We want to keep this house. We just want water. We don't have any water. And even before Daddy (Ray Blackbear) died we used to pester those people. They sent us to the Public Health Hospital and then back to the Bureau. And finally my Dad got tired, and he said, just a little while before he died, "Let's get a loan. I got land. We'll just try to get a loan." So we went over there, you know, and tried to get a loan to get this well--

Jordan: From the bank?

Birdie: No, through the Bureau. We went on over there and seen Mr. Carney and Mr. Moses and talked about getting just enough to do this house, you know. Repair it. And while we were doing that, he (Birdie's father) passed away, and after he passed away I just stopped, right there. I couldn't do anything because the money was all tied up. They had to pay mama's funeral (Helen Blackbear died seven months before Ray died) and then his own. So I didn't do anything. Then I started bothering this sanitation program again, and they sent me from one man to the next--whoever was in charge. They sent me from one fellow to the other.

Jordan: You were trying to get the water through the sanitation program?

Birdie: Yeah, and then we got tired the way they were just giving us the run-around. And they said they wouldn't be back around here for four years or