

MODERN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE WICHITAS:

(Let me ask you a kind of opinion question. You said that the Wichitas are pretty well off. Do you think your people are better off generally than some of the Plains groups?)

No, what I mean is that..did I say it that way. Well, just like I said. We tried to live within a culture that we believed in. And we always managed to have this and that all the years that we can ever recall; way back. And even at the present time, we try to manage to make a living and get along with people and live a good clean moral..I mean a good life. Good. But I won't say that we are advanced over it, like that, but other words, we try to respect other men. I like the Bureau. I have no feeling toward the Bureau. But perhaps it might been mistreated. But I think our people is trying to make the best of it.

(Do you think the LWichita are financially better off than the Plains tribes?) I wouldn't say that, but we have some people that receive pretty good income. They get along well. Speaking for our people, I think they doing the best they expect, under the circumstances we in. But you know, there was a little tendency on the part of the Bureau back there in the thirties when a person wanted to do this and that, they were held down because the Bureau said no, you can't do that. I had that experience. In the thirties they had a regulation, regulation that's the only thing they say, regulation. My father had a place out there, had a man to the man to live on the place, he was just a tenant to another man. Other words, he was a hired man to the man who had the lease. And this man that had the lease, he was pretty well fixed up in money. He had to help my father. Give my father eggs, you know, or chicken or something like that. Or more father wanted a cordon of wood, he would go over there and get the wood for my father.

RELATIONS WITH THE AREA OFFICE:

So time come that this man, the leasee's man was up, he wanted this hired hand. So he came here (to the bureau) and these lease clerk say no, this guy with money, he's got the preference, which he did. Furthermore, the superintendent said that no one could get the lease but this certain fellow. Went up there,