

Martin: Yeah, --well, I think I might make this evaluation, I've met Mr. Belvin on several occasions and he has been here on time as a United States Public Health representative and I believe that over and all he's been trying to do a good job for the Choctaws. But I think it's a form of an organization, it's a form of the peoples not really not part of the development. I think that's the reason why probably the Choctaws have not made the progress they need to. Now, going back a little bit here to what we started talking about, I think one reason why we've made some tremendous progress here in a short time, is in my opinion, is the Federal Government has been a lot more responsive to our needs here since beginning around 1960, when President Kennedy came in and stressed one of the things was education. So when he started doing that and provided the means of financing we started moving then toward getting our own school system set up here, a high school.

BEFORE 1963, NECESSARY FOR MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAWS TO GO OUT OF STATE TO SCHOOL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

As you know prior to 1963, that's when our high school was established. All of our kids beyond the eighth and tenth grade, tenth grade, I believe it was, had to go to Oklahoma--Chilocco, Seneca, Sequoyah, Haskell, places like that to complete their high school. But some of us leaders here, emphatically, pointed out that no American citizen should have to travel any distance to get education, when schools are already available here in Mississippi. So I questioned to them whether he could put us in public school or get us, build us a high school here. So I guess that the alternative was, at that time, to show the truths, all Indian high schools at that time. So, I don't think that made the Choctaws.