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BERTHA PROVOST, WICHITA

INTERVIEWED BY: WILLIAM E. BITTLE

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 7-15-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS AND CONDITIONS IN
INDIAN COMMUNITIES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

LEASING LAND AND INDIAN LANDLORD RELATIONS WITH WHITE RENTERS
GETTING ADVANCE ON LEASE MONEY
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIANS
COMPLAINTS ABOUT SCHOOLS
EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIANS
DRINKING PROBLEMS AND TEENAGE BEHAVIOR
TREATMENT OF INDIANS BY POLICE
LACK OF LAWYERS FOR INDIANS
O.I.O. AND INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS NOT WELL KNOWN
NAVAJOS AT FT. SILL INDIAN SCHOOL: ORPHANS
WICHITA TRIBAL COUNCIL
RELOCATION PROGRAM, SOME EFFECTS GOOD AND BAD
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND ATTITUDE TOWARD UNWED MOTHERS
ATTITUDE TOWARD TERMINATION

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bertha Provost is in her early sixties. She knows a great deal about traditional Wichita horticulture and food preparation and other subjects. She is fairly well educated and has lived in the western Oklahoma area near Anadarko most of her life. She is active in the Baptist Mission Work among the Wichitas.

(Preliminary discussion about the traffic on the way to Anadarko.)

We used to come from Shawnee, we lived over there about five years. We used to come through Norman. Seems like it was just coming over the hill. Didn't seem long way, you know.

LEASING LAND AND INDIAN LANDLORD RELATIONS WITH WHITE RENTERS

(Mrs. Provost, I thought we might talk about something different today. The new president of the University is very interested in the kinds of problems that Indians have with education and health, and a number of things. He hopes the University may be able to set up some kind of program to assist Indians. Could we spend some time this morning talking about the problems that now exist, and improvements that could be made in existing agencies. What kinds of improvements do you think could be made?)

Well, for my part, our Indians...some don't quite understand,