

another song.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH AND DECLINE OF BLACKFEET DANCE

(You remember anything that Apache Ben said about that staff?)

Well, there's some of these things that I brought out a while ago-- it's highly respected. And the way our people look at it, it's the highest in our tribe. When this Native American Church came in, well, we had two, then. This Native American Church and this Blackfeet--well, it just kinda evaporate a little while. It goes down so many years and then it comes back up again. And when this Native American Church came in, some of these big leaders, they took to it. Something new came into the midst of them and they all got interested. Of course most of these guys were what you call 'medicine people.'

(Why do you think they took to the Native American Church and let their Blackfeet society go?)

Well, I don't know. I just couldn't tell you on that line there. Of course it's revived (the Blackfeet Society) but this Native American Church is something that's like a church. But we have our own system-- our Indian way. We try to not only imitate nature--the things that grow and which has existed. And the white man say there is God, you know. That's the way we look at it. Of course we don't preach much preaching, but we do pray. But we have a time before our meeting--peyote meeting--is over. When the water goes out--when the woman takes the water out--we have a kind of a intermission before the breakfast comes in. During the time any one of these old timers, could come out with lectures, if he wants to. Talk about everyday existence and what's in store for us in the future. They talk on that line. We don't have