

that. And most of the Indians understand a little English and they got along. I was telling you about these fellows that was taking all kinds of skin, taking collections. Well, one collector was hunting another Indian and he wanted to know where his camp was. And my uncle, he's always joking, so he said, "He's camped over there. I'll see whether he's home or not." So he walked over there and says, "Hey, your collector is coming over here to see you. You get in bed and pretend you're sick with smallpox or some other disease that's contagious." "All right, tell him to come in. Tell him I'm sick with smallpox." It was in the daytime. Late evening. Well, he says, "He's home but he told you to come in there but he's got an awful case of smallpox. He says for you to come in there. He's got smallpox but he wants to talk to you." "No, tell him, I'll see him some other time." That was just a trick, see. And he got by. So he just try all kinds of tricks and the white people too--both sides.

#### GOVERNMENT BRANDS STOCK SO INDIANS CAN'T MORTGAGE IT

(Well, did the Indians understand about credit back then?) Yes, but they don't really understand the valuation of credit, it just goes to limits. They don't know when to stop. They go way beyond what they get paid--beyond their income. And they make credit to one store over here and one store here, and that's the reason I say that maybe one Indian will owe about \$2000 or \$4000 or \$5000. Some of them at the banks, and some of them to loan sharks. They loan them \$5 or \$10 and make them sign \$25 notes. Give them \$50, make them sign a \$100 note. Some of them take mortgage on all their horses and wagons and everything, and just take advantage of them. It was awful. They don't know any better.