

a \$1.29 an acre for it and then in 1948 we sued--the tribe sued--in Washington and in '61 we got a judgment for the difference in the value in the land and in the amount the government paid for it in 1894. And that added up to \$14,789,000.

#### CHIEF KEELER IS A DEDICATED CHIEF

Now principal Chief W. W. Keeler has been our leader and our chief since 1949. I have known him since then and before, intimately and well. He was successively appointed our chief as the statue of this country and the law requires first in 1949 by President Harry Truman. And then the succeeding presidents General Eisenhower and John Kennedy, and now the last President L. B. Johnson. All of them successfully have designated him as the principal chief of the Cherokees. He serves our people for no salary at all, and he spends literally \$100's of dollars of his own money every year in behalf of our people. Those of us who know him well, and there are others in this audience who know him as well as I do know, that every waking moment of his life since we've known him, has been in anxious concern for the welfare of our people, particularly the full bloods in eastern Oklahoma. Some has said, "Well, Earl if that's true, what has he done?" Well it just so happens that I am able to tell you, and I believe I do have accurate information, that before Chief Keeler, our people would not today be even as well off as I think some of them are, all because of his thinking and his leadership in our affairs.

#### ONE EXAMPLE OF EFFORT OF CHIEF KEELER

For example, in 1964 two men came to chief Keeler and to the executive committee, and I was sitting there and the lawyer at the table. They came from Washington. And they had two big brief cases. They opened up the brief cases and laid that material out on the table before the chief. They said, "Chief Keeler, we are from Washington, from the Department of Labor of the United States government and we now offer to you Chief Keeler the