

why I think I can be of service to you. I have been to college and so has Crosslin. We're what the white man call educated. We know how to get things done, but it's up to you, our people, to tell us what to do. We're here to serve you, to work for you. I can't over emphasize this, because I've seen the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I've seen the United States Public Health Service. I've seen all other kinds of groups that say they're there to help you and yet when they come and after they're gone, you haven't been helped. I've seen this all my life. So we have established an office in Tahlequah. And through this office we hope to help you. We can't do it for you no one can do it for you, but we can help you do it. We have everything necessary to conduct business. We have an office telephone, travel money, and this and that. We know where to go to get things. But we can't do anything without you the people. It's always discouraged me that we have so many Cherokee Indian people and yet they don't act as one group. They act as 100 different communities. I hope that in the near future sometime that all Cherokee people will work together. I think this is possible that in the very near future because for the first time we have been allowed to work at it. That's why I'm here, I'm here to somehow or another build an organization, called the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. And you know there used to be a Cherokee Nation before statehood. Until that time the Cherokees were doing well for themselves. When congress took away from us the right to govern our own--is when we started having hard times. Now for the first time--incidentally, Chief Keeler has worked for a long long time to get congress to approve us running our own business. He finally did and that was when he hired me. I don't know how to get all of this done. But I do know the first thing we have to do is get ourselves organized. We have to find some way that Crosslin and I and Chief Keeler back in the office, can communicate with you here in this community. We need to tell you what we are doing and in turn you need to tell us what your needs and desires are. We