

That's (the singer) his son. They had a pretty well-organized system of presenting their views. Capable, they were, to establish this Constitution and By-laws, for the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribe. Now that old Constitution--some lawyers have objected to it. One lawyer that I heard made a joking remark of it. And another man, a government official--I happened to be present there--said, "Don't you know that this Constitution is recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, with no objection to its contents? Also that this old Constitution that was adopted by the Cheyenne-Arapahoes has stood before the Congressional Commission of both houses? Never experienced any opposition?" And the last one that I heard two years ago was that this old Constitution--for the Cheyenne and Arapahoes--however, simple it might be--was the thought of the Indians. Not the educated ones, but the opinion of the old tribal chiefs. It has also stood in the courts that has recovered their claim. It was instrumental in recovering their claim--the biggest claim that any tribe in the United States has ever gotten. So there's no joke about this Constitution. There's nothing to be ridiculed. In fact there's a lot of highly educated tribes that haven't gone as far as these people have in the contention of their claims. All such opinions have been established. And we're proud of it.

ATTEMPTS TO DO AWAY WITH CONSTITUTION:

(Are you still using that Constitution today?)

The same Constitution. Oh, as I said, this Committee, that came on two years ago--they actually tried working without a constitution. They had their own opinions. Higher educated high school students and some preachers, you know--that had went to school to be preachers--and all that. They try to make a joke out of that and try to establish their own opinion. And everytime they do that some member of the Committee says, "Wait now. That's not in the Constitution. That's contrary to the Constitution." They get 'em back in line, you know.

(Why didn't they want to work with it?)

Well, they thought they knew more than the specific references in the Constitution--from their own opinion. But ever time that comes up and say, "No--you're trying to