

-they don't stand up like ours can. Oh, the Choctaws of the Five Civilized Tribes --their chiefs are recognized in a way--they carry on. But ours are strictly Indian.

(In the way the Cheyennes and Arapahoes do it, are the tribal chiefs ever on the General Council, or Tribal Council?)

Yeah, yeah. They are. They are, now. I don't know of any just now--who's on the Committee--but I know one--the Chairman--he's Arapaho. John Washee, Jr. He's a tribal Arapaho chief.

(How many Arapaho chiefs are there today?)

Well, we've had some that died that we haven't replaced. And I think the last count that we made when we men got together, there were seventeen chiefs for Arapahoes. That includes--Arapahoes always elect two Cheyennes to become associated Arapaho chiefs. And on the other hand the Cheyennes elect four Arapahoes to become associated Cheyenne chiefs. That's done, they say, because we're so inter--amalgamated--and mixed together. The Cheyennes out to know our problems, and the Arapahoes ought to know the Cheyenne problems, because there's a lot of part Cheyenne-Arapahoes. And that's been maintained for hundreds and hundreds of years --at least three or four centuries.

(Well, if they have seventeen chiefs, would there be any one of these or maybe two or three of them that would be considered higher, or have more authority than the rest?)

Well, it used to be that way but they just discontinued that, now. I'm the oldest Arapaho chief. In fact I've done more, I guess, than any of them put together. But I don't recognize that as a reason for being a higher chief than the others. Of course they recognize me as an authority. But to be titled as a Head Chief--no. Same way with the Cheyennes.

(If a man is ever elected chief by this Council of Chiefs, does he remain a chief all his life?)

Oh yeah, all his life.

(end of side I)