

SUSPENSION OF CHIEF'S FOR NOT PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES: CASES OF YOUNG BEAR AND SAGE:

(--I think you were saying a man remains a chief all of his life, although he may become inactive. And you were saying that sometimes they can be suspended for certain things, and that you've known of three or four that have been suspended. (And you were about to tell me why.)

Yes. I remember back in 1903 or 1904--somewhere along in there--early 1900's-- Chief Left Hand issued an order to all his chiefs--all tribal chiefs--Arapahoes, especially--that they should not set an example as chiefs to sell their lands--their allotments. So they exercise that order. But one man--this Little Bear--or Young Bear--Young Bear was his right name--had a lot of inherited land, mothers and brothers, young, old folks--around Greenfield. He insisted on selling those lands --eighty-acre tracts, hundred acres, hundred and sixty--so the chief reprimanded him on that, but he didn't --he just disregard that. So the land he sold--I think it was about 1903--Left Hand heard about it. So he openly reprimanded him and suspended him. And I think he must have been suspended about three years. In other words, he was inactive. But when he made up his mind that he would sell no more land and the other chiefs knew about it--oh, he was still active in the interests of the tribe in other ways, like in health, local problems, or visitors--he still took care of all of those problems. But he practically had no voice beyond his activities, you know, with respect to honoring his service. I don't know, but he was reinstated, and he became a pretty active man till he died.

(When did he die?)

Let's see now--about--somewhere along in 1938 or 1930. I remember there was a Council day--I was chairman again, I lived out in the country, and when I came to town I got word that he had died the night before at Greenfield. And everybody was worried about who was going to take care of him. So I called down to the Concho Agency and told them I wouldn't be there till late because I was going out and take care of this man--arrangements. So I went out there to Greenfield, and there was his wife and son and daughter and grandkids all around. I felt sorry for them, so I called Watonga for an undertaker to come after his body and take