

Oh, it started way back in--I guess--as far back as I can remember there were chiefs already elected before 1896, by Left Hand and them. And they carried on. And of course some of them dropped out by death, and they elected new ones to take their places. And they carried on until I got old enough to listen to them. Sometimes the councils were being held in our camp. Then my father and them would take charge. I learned quite a bit and then I got active. After the councils I'd ask my Dad what about that thing, what about this thing, what about this problem. He'd always tell me. Then these mixed bloods, sometimes those of our relations would come out to our home and ask for Dad about this problem he had known, present, how they were brought about. Then in turn they'd tell him what they learned in school. Learned through history. And I listened to all that. And he used to tell them, he said, "This boy that sits by me that listens close--one day he's going to be the only one man the Cheyenne-Arapahoes gonna depend on." He was telling about me. "He's a good listener." And when the council was over, he'd always ask me questions and I always tell him the truth. That's what I used to do, you know. That's how I got my information.

(Well, the people that were on this General Council that you had before you had this Constitution, were they chiefs? Did they have to be chiefs?)

Not necessarily, no. There were some that were pretty well educated men on the Council.

(Were they elected by the--)

By their respective districts. See, we have ten districts throughout the seven counties in which the Cheyenne-Arapahoes live--groups. And there was maybe two or three representatives from every district. There were some radicals, all right--them days, but they wouldn't last long--you know, political minded young fellows. Even those that were not chiefs.

(What kind of radicals were they?)

Well, they had their own personal opinions pretty well established and in mind, and they'd speak out publicly their views. They wouldn't meet with no approval, though, but they always know who they were. Something like--they had some personal