

NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH : MONEY FOR HOLIDAY DINNERS

(What kind of business would they have to discuss at their meetings?)

Well, say, like this present bill with Texas--see, the Central organization,-- the president of the Native American Church with his officers, say, "Now we got to raise money to pay the expenses of our witnesses, or maybe hire a lawyer or maybe fix up documents. And so we might tax each chapter, say, five or ten dollars, or twenty dollars." And when they do that, they'd send out notices--about what good purpose that it was for. And then a local chapter calls the chairman and calls a meeting. And that's what they discuss. Of course that's their action, whatever it is--in putting up the money or electing delegates--or those who participate in the central meeting. For a certain day that's appointed and they report their actions--of any local chapter. In that way their business is carried on like that. Of course they have a little dinner. They supply groceries for the dinner, and as for means of transportation of getting down to where the meeting is, they also provide for that. And they provide for Easter dinner, Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas dinner, New Years's dinner. All their money set aside. But we Cheyenne-Arapahoes, here, every Christmas the Tribal Council puts up two hundred dollars to each district--ten districts. Cheyennes and Arapahoes. Like here in Geary we can say we get two hundred dollars for Christmas. All right. They Native American Church says, "We don't want that money. Give it to the bulk of the people. We got our own money. We're going to have our own dinner. We can provide our own presents." Then the missionaries here say, "We got our own money." All right, then this money is held intact, and then the women get together--I know it happened this last Christmas. Women folks--five or six of them--will get together--and say "Well, let's take this money and buy groceries." They figure how many people they got to feed--how many kids