

T-253.

Informant: Hazel Harper, Osage

Interviewed by: Katherine Red Corn

Transcribed by: Flora Quinata

Interview date: May 1968

Proofread by: Nonie Kerr

INCOMPETENCY

(Beginning of this tape is not clear) --Indian, you don't have to do that. You can just go ahead and sell it outright (static)--agency takes care of it for you. That's how that is, or if you got money up there, well, if they think you are spending too much well, the Agency will think well, you can stand it so you're spending so much money, then we will put you on a budget. Give you a hundred dollars a week or something like that to live on. So, in case you are a little hard headed don't understand what they are talking about, well, they give you a dollar a day. Now some of these boys have been on a dollar a day. If they have money they couldn't take care of it, drinking, drinking it up and everything. So then he is put on restriction again. He's restricted again, he can't do as he pleases with his own funds again, because he's--you're incompetent. The Indian he gets--in other words--in these words are you're incompetent. Like you are, you're incompetent, of course in the states, laws of the land, you're incompetent while you're a minor. Again to make it more worse you're still more further incompetent according to the United States government you're not able to handle your business because you are incompetent. Of course to determine the Indians capabilities of--what is it incompetent, you look it up in the dictionary you'll find out what it means. There's been money that the Indians been cheated out of, the Osages been given a rough treatment, over this word, incompetent.

Third Voice: That means they're calling us ignorant.

No, it not, again now this word incompetent is that you're not able to do what you're supposed to do with your own thinking. That's what it means.