

TRIBAL COUNCIL ORGANIZED AND AUTHORITY OF CHIEFS TAKEN AWAY

--with the chiefs--when we organized this what-they-call-it that we're in now.

(This Business Committee?)

Yeah. When they organized them. It's got a name to it. When the Indians--before they organized this, the chiefs had the ruling power at that time. And men from Washington wanted us to organize so that our business could be recognized in Washington. They put in these educated fellows to discuss that. Well, they went for it. And then they told these older men. Well, maybe this chief had a son that wanted to accept this organization that the white men have given to them. Well, it went to every Agency. Then they held meetings here and there. My husband, he was the Chairman of the Central Farm Chapter. He fought them pretty hard, because he was for the older chiefs. He told my father to go around and tell these older men--when that voting time came they were to vote on it--"Just tell them to vote 'no'." He said, "That way you'll carry on your power, the way you Indians want your laws." He said, "You'll still have the power and authority to run your own business. But if you let these other educated fellows beat you, you won't have no power any more. Your chiefship and headmanship is gone." That's what he told my father (Birdie's father was Kias, a subchief). So my father used to go every day and talk to these older men. Well, just like I said, they had sons in there, and their sons told them, "No, father. You're going to vote my way." And then it went that way all over. Then they got to talking about my husband. They said, "What is this little white boy trying to tell us what to do?" That's what