

He had a bunch of Indians. Let's see--there was Oklahoma man by the name of Gabe Parker. I think he was Choctaw. I think he was one of them that started it. And Arthur Parker--college man from the Sioux tribe. And also a man by the name of Dr. Charles Eastman, another doctor, a full-blood Indian. I think he was Sioux. What stock of Sioux--I think there was four or five stocks of Siouxs--Pine Ridge, Rosebud, the Assiniboin Sioux and the Yanktons. They have several stocks of those Siouxs. Apparently on different reservations.

(What was it that this organization was founded for? What purpose?)

To better the conditions and the recognition of the American Indian as an aborigine with all his rights, exemptions, and not only that, but we symbolize in American spirit of that by these symbolisms that the army has on their uniforms--the thunderbird, the rainbow, and the buffalo and the Indian head. All those symbolizes the respect for the Indians. By the sign of the government that we are accepted. But our conditions--home, individual life, problems, and family--that's been slack all through these generations to the present administration. We now have an Indian Commissioner--Chippewa Indian from Wisconsin--by the name of Robert E. Burnett (Bennett) and we have a good Secretary Udall, former Congressman from Arizona, and we have several Indians in Congress. Used to be several more than that, like the first territorial Senator, Robert L. Owens, Cherokee lawyer. He became the first United States senator after statehood. I knew him well. He was (unin.) and so was Gabe--Charlie Carter and Bill Stigler--full blood Cherokee lawyer and promoter, and effected the passage of this Claims Commission Act, whereby we file our claims of our lands, you know--contentions--that the government has taken away from us almost for nothing. Many of us have been refunded by that.

(Does this National Congress of American Indians have anything to do with the Claims Commission?)

Yeah. They're the ones that promoted that. We took up-- They had a convention in 1945 at Browning, Montana among the Blackfeet. And we Oklahoma delegation members of that organization--several of us charter members--went up there and we presented a resolution that an Indian would introduce a Bill for a special Commission to look