

after all legal contention of the various tribes of the United States and for the government to--the law--to establish procedures. That passed August 13, 1946, just a year after we got that in October. That Bill was that much active--enough to see that that Bill had no hitch, that it passed the following summer.

(How did you happen to get involved with this Congress, yourself?)

Well, at that time, 1944, I was Chairman again of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribal Council, and we had a meeting in Oklahoma City May 12, that year to outline and make preparations of a planned meeting that was called the following month, I think, at Chiocco, Oklahoma Indian School. There we established the first President of the Indian movement. And then we publicized it and the Chicago Indian Center--what they call the Indian Fire--had something to do with this fire--Camp Fire--adopt it and then--That same fall a plan was established positively and beyond doubt that a Convention would be held in Denver, Colorado in November, 15-18. And so delegates were sent up there. I was one of the ones sent up there but I had to pay my own expenses. And we founded that organization. And I got a picture here of the first delegation from the various tribes. Then a year or so after that--the following year we had a convention then at Browning, Montana. That's when we adopted this proposed Commission to look into the Claims. Introduced by Bill Stigler, full-blood Cherokee Indian, good friend of mine. He was at Hawaiian Islands at that time, convalescing; he was not too healthy man--he had lung troubles. He was out there convalescing. So during that convention down in Montana when we adopted that resolution that we took up there, we wired him, Bill Short and I--a Chickasaw Indian--wired him up there about the action and he immediately wire back and said he'd be back in the States in about three weeks. He'd do all he can about it, which he did. So from there on, on other problems, we sent in delegations from the various tribes throughout the United States. I was up there then. We worked on it further, the Bill that was introduced--I don't know what day or what month it was--through the House. And that thing started rolling then. But there had been suggestions by Commissioner Rhodes and Scattergood under the previous Administration, to have such an organization started. But no action was taken as to legal procedure until when