

when Bill Stigler had that law passed. So everything worked out all right, then. This Claims Commission was adopted. It was ratified--I mean, accepted. And one of the Senators from Utah, I believe--Arthur C. Watson--Arthur Watson--a former Senator from that state who had lost his seat, became among the first judges of that Commission. He's there yet, I believe.

(What does this organization do today?)

We , several years ago--I think '46 or somewhere along in there--we sponsored a case whereby the New Mexican, Arizona and western Indians were debarred or denied the franchise of voting, because of the fact that they lived on reservations and they were not classified as complete citizens. Which, you know, they were by natural --system, promise. So we won that case. And one or two other cases similar in other states. And later on when the Commission started and we started to get our judgements what the law calls adjudicated awards--on the value of our contentions--we worked what then that these funds would be exempt from the income tax. There had been income tax paid by Indians from from their oilwell income here in Oklahoma and other places--timber, in Oregon and Washington. But when we started this case, they established a Committee--I was one of the members of the Income tax Committee at the Phoenix Convention in 1946 or '47. And we started that case. And there were two cases that then was undertook--the Capulmat (?) Case--I was reading it this morning. It was a timber case, lumber. You know, people bought a lot of timber and they tax those Indians' income tax. Another case, the Nicodemus Case, was similar, on the western coast. And this Oklahoma case, James Toonoe, Jones against Toonoe, a Comanche--he and his wife--we threwed that in. Then we got a judgement on that claiming the--the court opinion was all these contended claims were way hundreds years before, and the income tax didn't take effect--become law--until 1914. The court opinion was that because this money was a long time coming, it should not be taxable. Not be kinda considered a thing that should be taxable when it was already existing way before that. And we won that case. So now this money that we're getting next week along through August, each one of us gets about \$2600 or \$2900 apiece--will not be income taxable. And the interpretation of that law was previously established