

(Did the tribe get after them to pay back the loans?)

No. This--just kind of a typical--loan. Just like you go to the bank and borrow as an individual. This loan was based on that.

(What if you couldn't pay it back? What if you had a bad season?)

Well, that's the trouble we had. That's the trouble we had. The Washita Valley Association, they had to have that--

(Bonnie: Did the tribe run out of money to loan?)

We had plenty of money. We had lots of money but they wouldn't--

(Bonnie: Well, why didn't they continue to give loans out?)

Well, we recommend loans, but the government turned us down. We had bad seasons at that time. We had bad seasons. When you have bad seasons, you have to have additional loan in order to keep operating.

(Bonnie: Where did the government turn it down?)

Right here at the Office. Turned down our additional loan.

(Bonnie: But wouldn't the tribe give its members any more loans?)

Well, we recommend those loans (be made). See, the tribal committee recommends to the Loan Board--

(Judy: See, the loans have to be approved by the Area Office, and the Area Office wouldn't approve those additional loans.) See, they got the last say-so.

(Just like that man was telling us this morning--they have a say-so on the land sales. Everybody can be agreeable, but if they don't think it's enough--)

If it's not enough, they'll turn it down.

(Bonnie: Would your sons consider working the land--would they consider farming?)

Well, it would be up to them. If they're interested--

(Bonnie: Would you want them to?)

Well, yeah. (pause) Let me put it this way. I could be in partnership with my son. I can reserve this land I live on. I could reserve it. Now if I reserve it, say, in 1970, that means that all my general income off of this lease will stop.