

Tape # 275
NAVAJO
Frank Toledo and Ray Yazzie
December 12, 1969
Michael Husband - Interviewer
Side One

AREA ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Ray Yazzie - AR.
Michael Husband - QH.
Frank Toledo - AF.

QH. What have you been doing lately Ray??

AR. Helping the welfare.

QH. Oh, you have still been working for the welfare huh??

AR. I ask that guy about you , that one guy knows you, but he might be going to school, I don't know. That is what he said.

QH. What do you do translate, interpret for them??

AR. Yeah. Just like we are doing.

QH. Do they give you money for food, or what do they give you?

AR. Oh, they give me money.

QH. Oh yeah???

AR. Only about \$1.50 an hour, I don't know why they do that now. I just don't play with the money I give it to the lady, she can use it.....

QH. Oh, your wife?

AR. Yeah.

QH. Where is your wife, where did she go?

AR. Went to visit, what is his name Billy.

QH. Who is that, her boy??

AR. Her brother. I eat a little bit right??

QH. Sure.....

AR. We have missionaries they have been sick a long time, he came last Sunday boy, he bring something

QH. Who was he how??

AR. Phillips is his name.....

QH. Phillips????

AR. Yeah. Missionary.....

QH. Oh yeah, from where?

AR. He is a big fellow. From All-Tribes, Bernallio.....

QH. Oh, from all tribes school, does he give you free clothes....?

AR. No, he just gives them to me.

QH. But here they make you pay huh??

AR. Yeah, unless I go to church, but I don't get no free clothes.

QH. Do they make everybody pay here?

AR. Yeah.....Henry went to work too.

QH. Oh he did.

AR. You know Benny don't you?? Come back but they went to go back to Tucumcari...no San Juan, and the corn, they are going to plow over there.

QH. Is everybody here is working now huh?

AR. No, no job....picking pinions??

AR. I have no way to go, I try to talk to that missionary but he won't take me over there.

QH. Why not??

AR. Oh, he is afraid, he said.

QH. Yeah. Do they mind if you work for the welfare people, or don't they care???

AR. They don't mind.

QH. The welfare people don't like the missionaries though huh??

QH. The people steal out of your hogan huh??

AR. Yeah.

QH. What do they steal, everything.???

AR. No, I left alot of stuff outside.....

QH. Oh, they come in huh??

AR. No.

QH. Have you got a lock for the door?

AR. Yeah, I have a padlock.

QH. So they don't come in. But no one has ever broken the door?

AR. No, they did it to Frank one time, he has a good house and somebody broke his window.

QH. Went in and stole something.

AR. They just did and he went and report him to Crownpoint.

QH. Police huh??

 AR. When they find out his ID, they are going to try and raise up his check, you know Bob?

QH. Welfare check?

AR. Yeah.

QH. Don't you get welfare money now?

AR. No.

QH. Why don't you get any welfare money?

AR. I try the VA, they told me if I go there, there an old lady that comes over there, that is pretty old, that goes over there, she said that I can get if I want help, they help you out, that is what she said.

QH. But you don't get any welfare money??

AR. No, I am 56.....

QH. Too old, too young.....

AR. I don't know, this one guy told me, he was in the army, he said, go to Veteran Administration he said, and talk to them, they will try and help you.

QH. But all you get is food stamps that is all?

AR. That is all we get and besides that a few dollars that is all.

QH. Just the money you earn?

AR. Yeah.

-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

QH. How long have you lived around here? Long time??

-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

AF. No, not so long, I was born over here anyway. I have got an allotment down this way.....

QH. Got some land, how much do you have there?

AR. One section.

QH. Oh, a section? Have you got sheep or anything.

AF. No.

QH. No sheep or anything??

-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

QH. Farm?

AF. Just one horse.....

QH. Just one horse huh??

-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

QH. Would you like to have sheep?

AF. Yes.

QH. Don't have non though? Do you grow some corn?

AF. Yeah, sometimes.

QH. But not very often though huh??

AR. Working...chop wood.

QH. You have food stamps here?

AF. Yeah.

QH. How much do they give you a month?

AF. About 50.

QH. Is that enough?

AF. Not enough.

QH. How many do you got, you and your wife??

AF. Just me and my wife, my daughter is in school.

QH. Your daughter is in school??? Your daughter doesn't live here, she is in where, boarding school?

AF. Yeah. And then one boy is in Many Farms.....

QH. He is in college at Many Farms??

AF. Yeah.

QH. Does he like that pretty well?

AF. Yeah, that is what he told me.

QH. Navajo Community College?

AF. Yes, he is working over there too.

QH. Does he write you from there?

AF. Yeah.

QH. He likes it pretty well huh? You got to pay to go there? To Many Farms College?

AF. Yeah.

QH. How much does it cost?

AF. \$100.

QH. \$100 a year?

AF. Yeah. I have to pay over there.

QH. Does the government pay for him to go over there or do you have to pay it?

AF. I have to pay it.

QH. You get food stamps and you get government money too, welfare?

AF. Yeah.

QH. Do you get enough of that??

AF. Should be more, not enough.

QH. Not enough, huh? What about doctors, what do you do when you get sick?

AF. Albuquerque or Crownpoint.

QH. Yeah to the Indian hospital there.

QH. Well how do you get in there if you are real sick? Do they come and get you?

AF. Yeah.

QH. Do they sent an ambulance for you??

AF.

QH. You stay down there and you don't have to pay.....

AF. Yeah.

QH. Do you take pretty good care of you??

AF. Yeah. In '53, that is the time that I got hurt.

QH. What happened? Car Accident??

AF. Yeah.

QH. Were you working before that?

AF. Yeah, I was working for the railroad. I have been working for 15 years.

QH. BUT she couldn't work after that happened though? What did you do, loose your finger?

AF.

QH. How long ago was your accident then?

AF. Since 1953.

QH. Since 1953, you couldn't work after that?

AF. No.

QH. Do you get any money from the railroad, pension?

AF. Not yet?

QH. But you will?

AF. After the new year, that is what they told me.

QH. When you are 65.

AF. No, 62, that is what they told me.

QH. How old are you now?

AF. 61.

QH. You have got one more year and then you get a railroad pension.

AF. Yeah.

QH. But your food stamps are not enough though?

AF. No.

QH. Where do you buy at the trading post, your food? Or do you go to Cuba?

AF. Cuba.

QH. It is better to go there??

AF. Yeah, not much good here, cost too much.....

QH. Not enough money?

AF. Cost too much, well someone.....

QH. Well someone ~~mu~~ must go there? He has some business there at the Torreon Trading Post?

AR. He gets the mail and that is all, he don't give us any money....

QH. REally?

AR. Even he gets his check, but no money, they ask him but he said, we don't give no money. I don't know where he make that law. He said that it is the law.

QH. People get mad at him huh?

AR. And the food stamps that I have to pay so much for them, I pawn something. Yeah, that is what he is doing this guy. He is going to get rich pretty soon, looks like.

QH. He is rich already isn't he?

AF. He has three or four store already....Morris.

QH. Oh yeah.

AF. Sure a tough guy. I used to trade with him.

QH. Yeah, that is too bad. Do the missionaries come up here and visit too?

AR. Yeah, on Wednesday or Sunday.

QH. Do they give you a ride if you need one or do you have a car?

AF. No, no car,...nothing just a horse.

QH. Yeah.

AF. Yeah, it pretty hard, even somebody had to take us to Cuba.

QH. Do you have to pay for the wood?

AF. Yeah, he has to pay plenty.

QH. Who do you pay the missionary??

AF. No, the guy that brings the wood.

QH. Navajo people?

AF. Yeah, even water, long ways.....five dollars.

QH. Five dollars for one of those 65 gallon drums or whatever it is.

AF. Small one....

QH. Five dollars for one of those?

AF. Yeah.

- QH. That is only about 50 gallons, that is too much money....And how much for wood, about \$8?
And what is that a pickup truck load?
- AF. That is all one load....
- QH. No money, no work, no money, no water.....Won't the missionaries bring water??
- AR. No, they won't help us, they just come over here and talk about things.
- QH. That is too bad, cause they could bring you water, at least....
- AF. Bring a load of wood, right?
- QH. Yeah, cause you need to have alot of wood in the winter, freeze to death.
- AF. Yeah and you need it ot.
- QH. And you have to have it to cook all year round...Do you think that it would be better to live on the reservation??
- AF. No, too wild.....
- QH. How do you mean?
- AR. Too many people fight...there are too many people out there. They get mad.
- QH. Where on the reservation. But wouldn't they take better care of you on the reservation though?
- AF. No, I don't think so. I have a family over there.....
- QH. Where on the reservation??
- AF. Yeah, brother's and sister's living over there. I was over there last summer, and my boy is living over there too. I show you where he goes to school over there too.
- QH. But he lives where on New Mexico on the reservation??
- AF. No, Arizona.....Many Farms.
- QH. So he likes living on the reservation??
- AF. Yeah, that is what he said.
- QH. Maybe if you lived on the reservation you would get more security, they take better care of you?
- AF. Yeah, I guess.
- QH. ARE you, do you go to the chapter meetings, are you a officer for the chapter.
- AF. YEah, sometimes we go over there.
- QH. Does that help at all, the chapter meetings?
- AF. Yeah.

QH. Do they.....

AF. If you are looking for a job, yes it helps. This coming Sunday they are going to have another meeting, that is what they say.

QH. Jobs for people, what kind of jobs do they find.

AR. They might ask for bring wood, or something. For everybody, just like him, it would be better for them.

QH. Yeah.

AR. If they give me a job...so many loads here, so many loads there.

QH. Then who pays them, does the chapter pay them?

AR. No, yeah, these guys have to get pay, the worker. Out of the tribe money.

QH. What does somebody do if they don't have any money and they are all out of wood and they are out of water? Do they freeze to death in the winter?

AR. Yeah.

QH. Does that happen, does anyone die around here? If they don't have any wood?

AF. They help each other, everybody help they. If they don't have no wood, then they just haul wood for them, you see.

QH. But nobody starves to death?

AF. No, they don't do that in the Navajo, they help each other, see.

QH. Well that is good, that is good.

QH. How long has your boy been over there at the college?

AR. About two years now.

QH. Oh two years. What does he want to do when he gets out?

AF. He has got a job right there, at the same time.

QH. Oh he does?

AF. He is taking care of the little kids. That is a good job...

QH. How many people go to that college do you know?

AF. Alot of them, about 700 or 800.

QH. Yeahthey should have more of those colleges shouldn't they??

- AF. Yeah, they are going to make another one. Around the same place around there.
- QH. Maybe they should have one in New Mexico too.
- AF. Yeah, they are suppose to one in Crownpoint, but.....
- QH. Oh, they are goign to build one there?
- AF. They are already building.
- QH. Would the people out here like to have electricity and.....
- AF. Yeah.
- QH. And chance of getting that?
- AF. Yeah. They have got some already over here. You know where that Francis?
- QH. Pay for it though?
- AF. Yeah, cause she use it all the time.
- QH. How much would it cost to have electricity out here?
- AF. Oh, the other day, they said that we would have to pay \$5.72 for one.
- QH. A month?
- AF. Yes, it is already in, I don't know if they put it in, they say \$100 something electřicity, how much do you have to pay a month?
- QH. It is about \$10 a month.
- AF. He would like to have some material, lumber.....
- QH. Lumber like that?
- AR. But, I don't know how this thing is going to come up. The other day, we told that guy, I don't know how it is going to come up. We have to go through him. REd tape or something.
- QH. Don't they have a saw mill over by Cuba??
- AF. Yeah, they have got some over there.
- QH. Yeah, but don't they throw away alot of wood that is bad?? That you could get? They throw away the bad wood that, are crooked.....boards.
- AR. THis one, he means about a little house, for his lumber material, I don't know how much it cost down at....? Some place down at Freeloves or someplace down at the lumber yard.
- QH. Pretty much I think.
- AR. It cost money too. They ought to give those guys about 100 dollars more to buy things for them

so that they can buy some house or something.

QH. It is cheaper to build an adobe house huh?

AR. That is the one that somebody broke into his house, he has got a house down there.

QH. Oh, you have got another house huh?

AR. A hogan, I am just living there, this is my neighbors. This is a closer to the road here too, bring something for us to see.

QH. Yeah.

AR. If they bring something for us, like wood or something.

QH. Better than living afar away isn't it?

AF. I live way over there Far away.....

QH. So your house is just empty there now??

AF. Yeah, my neighbor is living over there now too.....Billie.....

QH. Take care of it?

-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

AR. He is the one that somebody broke into his window.

AF. Last year....

QH. Did they steal something from your house?

AF. Yeah, alot of things.

QH. What did they take, just almost everything.....

AF. Yeah.

QH. Did they take your clothes?

AF. My clothes and everything. And they broke all those windows....

AR. They took all their belongings. Maybe they took it someplace, even axe..phonograph, everything.

QH. REally, you never foudn out who did it?

AR. Don't they know who did it?

QH. You have got no police out here huh?

AR. We have a police man once in a while.

QH. The police come from where, they have to come all the way from Crownpoint, you mean they don't have any Navajo police here?

AR. Once in a while we just see a state policemen, in Cuba....

QH. Oh, do the Cuba police come out?

AR. Once in a while.

QH. If there is an accident, they will come out?

AR. Yeah, if something is happening.

QH. Do they have a hospital in Cuba?

AR. A clinic.....

QH. That is a government clinic.....

AR. Somebody said that you have to pay.

QH. But you never go there huh?

AR. It cost money, I don't know what they said.

QH. That is a state clinic, welfare though??

AR. Maybe the welfare, they don't pay, I don't know.

QH. But there is another clinic too? Are there any doctors in Cuba? Must be a doctor there?

AR. Doctor something? I don't know, my wife mentioned his name, I don't know, his name is Staff...

QH. Does he live there in Cuba?

AR. Yeah, I think so. He lives in Cuba, or someplace around there.

QH. Do the Navajos go to him?

AR. Every once in a while.....

QH. But it costs too much.

AR. Yeah, there is a guy working over there, Franklin Tso is his name.....

QH. Yeah, I know Franklin.....he takes x-rays.....

AR. He works over there.

QH. Does the government let you have sheep if you can have them here?

AR. Yeah.

QH. They let you huh?

AR. Yeah, cattle sheep.....

QH. Just don't have the money huh??

AR. No money.

QH. What do you think the government should do then, more food stamps?

AR. I guess.

QH. And more money?

AR. Yeah, more money....

QH. Do you get a check every month?

AR. Yeah. Not even much though.....

QH. Not enough to buy sheep with?

AR. No spend here, you can't buy sheep with it too.

QH. How do you go to Cuba to buy your food? Get a ride with somebody?

AR. Find somebody that has a car....You have to pay them too. Buy gas.....

-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

AR. I think it is more cheaper down at Cuba.

QH. Yeah, for food.

AR. But over here.....boy, oh boy.....

QH. Too high huh??

AR. Too much money.

QH. Did you like working with the railroad pretty good?

AF. Yeah, I used to.

QH. Did they have alot of Navajo working for the railroad?

AF. Yeah.

QH. Do they treat them pretty well?

AR. Yeah, good food.

AF. Yeah, they sure feed us good, when I was working.....

QH. Pretty good pay too?

AR. Oh, they pay more now?

QH. Oh do they?

AR. That time, they didn't pay very much.

AF. You had to pay for the food too.

QH. Did you go to boarding school in Crownpoint?

AF. No, in Albuquerque.

QH. At the Indian School?

AF. Yeah, in 1920.

QH. 1920, how long, how many years?

AF. I just went up to the eighth. I didn't have no high school.....

QH. Did you like boarding school down there?

AF. I sure like it.

QH. They treat you pretty good down there??

AR. Better than at Crownpoint huh Ray??

AF. Yeah, Crownpoint they are awful....I can't stand it over there.

QH. Ray didn't like Crownpoint.

AR. I run away about two times. They got me back all the time.

QH. You didn't have to run away from Albuquerque, they treat you pretty good? They don't hit you?

AR. No.

AF. In those days they were sure strict, now aday they are easy.

QH. But they punished you down there if you were bad, didn't they?

AR. Yeah, they give us this, even if we are chewing gum or something, they make us throw it away.

QH. But they weren't mean though, just strict.

AF. It is for our own good anyway. It is our own fault. Yeah we had a pretty good school there.

QH. How much did you get Ray?

AR. Oh just a few.

QH. You don't get that many huh?

AR. No, you know what they ought to do, instead of paying so much, they ought to pay, about \$10 and he get \$50 for it, if he wants to pay that much, he ought to get more than that. Maybe about \$80, some guys are getting that much.

QH. Where do people get the money to buy the stamps though? Welfare money?

AR. Work or.....

QH. Do you get social security? Money when you get 62??

AF. Yeah, that is what they told me.

QH. Then your railroad pension.....

QH. He said that he is a poor man, but not all the Navajos out there are poor are they? Some of them have money, they have new trucks?

AR. Yeah.

QH. From where do they get their money?

AR. Form their oil wells.

QH. Do some of them got oil around here?

AR. Oh different place, allotted land, I know one guy, he has got allotted land, he got \$850

QH. A year or what do you mean?

AR. He has his money over there at Corwnpoint, he just draw about \$425 to buy a car like this. You know how much he told me he pay for it? He has got one small sedan and he just trade it off and he had to get a new one, he said that he pay only \$400 something.

QH. Do you know anybody that has oil?

AR. Oh guys from around here, not very much money, some of them get just so much. The ones with the children right? If they are single, they get so much.....

QH. But how do some of these people around here buy new pick-up trucks?

AR. Oh, ~~they got it from~~ Albuquerque, they pay just so much and then they have to pay every month, little by little, that is what they say, I don't know, some of them are not very good. They are just stupid, if a guy don't pay, they just take it away from him. That is what they do.

END OF TAPE.

NON-
MIMEO BOND