

Tape #401 (side 1)
NAVAJO
Bi-monthly meeting
Fort Wingate, New Mexico
June, 1969
Recorded by Tom Ration

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE
MEETING, CHAPTER DIS-
CUSSES THE SCHOOL BUSES,
TENURE AND NUMBER OF CAC
MEMBERS, EARLY CAC'S

I like to ask about the little alcoholics problem and this is the man named by Nat Yazzie, he is from Becenti chapter. I been waiting here to ask a question about the CAC problem for all this time. Chairman and the vice chairman, secretary and the visitors and all listeners; I just want to ask a little question not too long question. About talking the CAC for quite a long while there is nobody has never asked anything about. As you say that during the time of replacing the chapter officers there were quite a big discussion was placed in this time. As I know, I used to be a councilman in these years, that during the time the chapter officer was not paid, they just help one another as to talk business between each other. And then later on, the chapter houses were established and then from there on the councilmen got together and decided to put the chapter officer in the chapter houses. As you know what an officer is, an officer is a law that to keep orders this is the way I know of myself. Officers is to keep things going on, on your place and other people are disturbing the peace, the law is an officer, is there to keep peace. So all these things that I was thinking about that chapter officer is an officer, he keep his people in order. So there is another question because officers are paid to be all of this. They keep up the meeting

every so often, I think it is twice a month throughout the Navajo country. They talk about things for their people in a way of a living way, they talk about their future life, what will be next. How can their people go about, they want their people's answer and this way you are very good officer, chapter officer. The people that are asking questions and things of a kind, they were the ones that were answer most of these questions. So I like to ask or say that throughout the country today we know that the chapter officer are paid because they are paid for their transportation. They are paid for their meeting, and there is another deal came up that the CAC, the Community Action Committee. The CAC is it looks like it's a little higher than officers because the CAC they talk about things in the future way what would be next. How can we go about in our chapter, they talk about things that we need, so that's why they are paid for their trouble. I like to ask the ONEO that the CAC will be in the same position as a chapter officer, they come from different direction as a CAC member. They have to travel here and there, they have to buy their own gas, they have to discuss things to their people and it is something like a chapter officer. I wonder, the CAC committees will be paid like a chapter officer, this is the question I want to ask. I thank you. Mr. Chairman..... I don't know who would answer the question but we let Eugene Borden and..... a little of the CAC will be paid for their trouble. They are going to be traveling through their country

as we know that I wonder they would be paid for their trouble. This is what I'm asking for the CAC. And Mr. Eugene Borden will answer the question and Mr. Mariano, either one. Well, here is Mr. Borden to tell you the situation about the problem about the money problem. Mr. Borden..... about the question that has just been asked about the CAC member will be paid, they have discussion about the program in..... The CAC will be paid later on if they went through a more discussion that they said they will be paid.... And there will be a meeting over at Kaibeto school that they want mention that over there sometime soon. So, the CAC will be paid, I don't know how many.... how much the discussion will be on. But the CAC problem.... So, now your question is answered about that new part of the CAC program. Yes..... Mr. Skeet.... Well, folks it's just about time for lunch so we'll go and then the first party will be speaking is Mrs. Collier from Ianbito. Ianbito is just south of Gallup, New Mexico. There is a little Indian town there, Navajo place. So, we'll go to lunch now and we'll discuss the little bit more about the CAC payment... Mr. Skeet, the chairman of the district council meeting.... Now I think it would be time for opening again, it's past 1 already so now I think we'll go on our training session, and before dinner we have some of Mrs. Collier to get the first choice from Ianbito and here is Mrs. Collier..... Chair- man, the vice chairman and the secretary, the leadership mem- bers and the councilmen and the visitors and the CAC members,

I have said hello to you all, and a very thankful for the opportunity I have given from the chairman, Mr. Skeet. I will now tell you about what I think of myself and tell you where I came from and I will be going on with my problem that I want to say. In the earliest days of my time I am about 72 years of age..... I went to school at Rahobath Mission during the time of the school days. I have went up to 8th grade. In these days, school was kind of high for people to go to school they used to be higher grade school. Today school is not too hard as the way I know that in those days when you are in 8th grade you will be just as high as the 12th grade. So I think I'm well off with 8th grade. Time went on in my days when I was a girl. I work here and there for my living. My folks have a few stock to run sometime I used to herd sheep and I used to weave good rugs in these days. Rug was the only thing that we Navajo used to have for our money. In the whole reservation I think we made millions of rugs that is now covering the world. Rug is all made out of wool, nothing but wool. The rug is wool and the weaving part is wool, so it's all made out of wool. So, I want to say that in these days, in hardship days, they had different ways of living. And I went along until I was about a little better than 19, about around 20 years old. And then I went further on and I got married and went with the family business. My old man was the only one that was working, I kept house, weave rugs, take care of the housing and take care of the sheep and take care of the children. But still I want to

think further on, I worked very hard for my living, I was a very good educated, too. So while I was at home, I decided to think about what I could do in my future life. I thought I want to learn how to talk in chapter houses; sometime I used to be along in my house and practice stand in front of some tables and chairs like say my story or something I want to say. I keep doing that and finally I got used to it. One say there was a meeting going on at Crownpoint area, I made up my mind to say a little word what I think it would be right if it is right, I thought I could keep at it. So during the time of the meeting I decided to make up something for my speech and I was thinking what I could talk about and what I could ask. Some way rather I thought I could ask about the Wingate land, the place where we are now living. I want to ask some details about how it is running around our area, how long we going to use it. This is what I had in mind. The meeting was on. There was quite a few people, but I was not scared at all. So the meeting start and I keep on trying in my heart I wanted to raise my hand, but something kept me back. For a long time.... finally I start to checking everytime I wanted to raise my hand I shook, and then there was one of the leader member walking in the hall and I thought... so I made up my mind to ask them, to make a note of it and say that I would say a word and he said alright I'll do that. So then he went and wrote my name down I think for another minutes I was called up. I was called up from the back, everybody was

was looking at me but I went before the whole crowd and I had said my saying of where I am from and what clan I am and all those things. But I have introduced myself where I'm from and first I started to tell that I was learning how to speak first. I told all the story what I have done in the past time. I made mostly everybody laugh. So I kept that up and I asked about the Window.... Fort Wingate at Ianbito where we are now living. I asked the superintendent that how it was been translated to the Navajo and he told that the tribal people bought it from the Wingate Department, the army department, and it belongs to the Navajo from this side of the railroad. From the other side of the railroad it belongs to the army department from Wingate. So the line was made by the railroad line. So it was a lot better for me to start off and I..... my question was answered that the railroad from this side of the railroad that it belongs to the Navajo tribe, it belongs to the Indian now. So that was one first question that I have asked. From there on, on the meeting was still on and I had another chance. I wanted, to ask about some water problem so which I did that this time I raise my hand up and my chance was given to me again and I asked that if there would be any water being drilled for us. In these days school was just getting ready for different part of the country, boarding school. So they told me that there was a boarding school will be at Ianbito, which would belong to the Navajo people and the water well will be drilled right by the school which the Navajo people will be using. So

here I have asked two questions about Ianbito and here is where I started. Finally I keep on adding every little things, making it better and better until I was looked at a chapter member. I was the vice chairman in that first day of election of the chapter officer. I was in the seat for four years. The end of four years there was another member run against me. This time I lost out of the vice chairman and then I was elected for the secretary again. There was another man run against me and I won for the secretary. So I was re-elected to the secretary and they replace my vice chairman. So I was secretary from there on for quite a number of years, another four years I was doing pretty good job. I was re-elected again in the next coming year, four years and I won for the chapter president. I was the leader of the chapter then. From there I thought I will talk and tried to get my people something done. So I went and I was in the chapter officer now. There was the chapter president of the chapter. I have worked hard to build some houses around Ianbito area. I didn't mind of keep going for my people. I liked the way it was running. So from there on, the school, day school program was built and then all the people like it. They have sent their children to the boarding school and then I talk about some more water wells. They have builded another water wells right near the school. So we now have talked into placing a tank up higher so we can have running water for our houses. And that was also fixed that the running water was fixed. So that we can get water for our people. I kept on

going for another four years that was my six years. In the end of four years I had another turn. This time I was running for the council, there was Tom Rafael running against me and Jim Delargo, there was three of us and we both got beat. Jim Delargo was councilman then. Another four years pass, I was out of the chapter officer then and I like to join it again. That's the way I have been working among people for so many out of the year and I do know that I have worked hard for my people to get things straightened out and make out a better living way out of them. Today, I feel kind of old and weak and all I'm doing is staying home but then I was elected as a CAC member and I am the CAC chairman now. I think I will help them out again so far as I know that we are all doing fine with our CAC workers and that we have already have two or three meeting in the reservation that the CAC has a very good program and problem for their people to live on the higher living way. We are now talking about graded roads, we are now talking about better fencing, we are now talking about better schools. So I think that is all I want to tell you for the time being, but I would like to have another chance later on. So I'm very thankful that you have been very quiet so that I will quit now and, my other second chance will be called, I thank you all. Now Mr. Skeet..... we will go on with the next problem that will be Ned Yazzie.... he is just, he is not of any kind of a membership or leader but he is just to ask some questions. He just want to ask about a different

set of problem that he like to ask some of the leader members about what has been passed through. He said he's got it all written on his paper and wanted to ask a certain questions... Mr. Ned Yazzie..... Mr. Ned Yazzie has been into a different chapters for quite a many years and I think he's got quite experience with chapter leadership.... Mr. Yazzie.... The Chairman, vice-chairman, the council, the secretary, the councilmen, and the leadership members, I say hello to you all. I am very thankful to have this little opportunity to say my little saying which I have been trying to speak it about for in the last 2 or 3 hours. So now I like to ask about the pre-school that you have been talking about in the past minute or the past hour. About the pre-school problem or program which you say that there will be some pre-school building will be built in through the area. So I like to ask that how is it you going to run, is it..... we have to take our children to the pre-school or there will be a bus that will be furnished for the pre-school..... Yes, there will be a bus furnished for the pre-school, and the children will be hauled back and forth. There will be some bus coming out from ONEO to be issued out to different pre-school building where they are going to be pre-school. Mostly all the pre-school that will be run near the chapter houses so that is question that you have just asked. There is another question I like to ask..... How is the pre-school bus driver going to be hired, hired... will it be as... will it be voted through the people or would the pre-schooler

already have a man to drive the bus?..... The pre-school bus driver should be elected from each chapter. The people must vote it for him to be a pre-school bus driver and another hand I like to ask is the pre-school teacher will it be a white woman or who would be a teacher? The teacher must be high school graduated or he or she can be high school graduated and the people must vote for the helpers. The pre-school teacher will be hired by the ONEO so that is the question that you asked how did the pre-school will be running. Another question I like to ask, I like to ask who is going to pay the driver and the teacher of the pre-school. The driver and the teacher will be paid through the ONEO program that came from out of Washington, D.C. The people do not pay nothing. Their children will be the only ones to go to school. There at the pre-school. With their..... how old has to be when you enter the school, the children, how old does he have to be? The children must be at least three years up to four years of age, but the limit is four years of age is better head start for the children. As you have talked about the pre-school is there any place where we can start the pre-school, how can that be arranged, we don't have no pre-school at all. I mean if we don't have no place for them to go to school, what can we be doing to help our children, to helping your children is it would be up to the community, the people of the chapter and the chapter officer, they can make some kind of arrangement in the chapter house for the head start until

they have a place to go to school. This is a problem of a pre-school, we will have boarding place later on if we have to. If the kids are traveling from quite a ways out, this is another question which we have asked. So far I have asked quite a number of questions that I would like to ask. So I think that will be all for my part so I thank you very much for listening to me this far, I thank you..... Mr. Skeet, the chairman..... Is there any more questions to be answered about different things, I don't think nobody is going to ask no more questions so we will be going on to the next program. Now we have here a man with us named George Young..... and he is going to talk about the CAC member. Mr. George Young is one of the CAC members of the community chapters and Mr. Young has a very good experience of outline of the CAC, how, what it is. He will tell you more about the CAC, why it is so..... the CAC member will be working with the chapter officer level. During the time of the CAC discussion was about two weeks ago. We have talked about the Community Action Committee because we people in Window Rock here or at Fort Defiance ONEO headquarters been talking about different things we never have a chance to talk about the outline of our people. So we decided to build up the CAC member for the community only so the CAC can talk about and discuss things in their ways at the chapter level. I think the CAC will do pretty good at their own chapter and then from there on, they'll handle it to the chapter officer. The chapter goes through the councilmen and the councilmen takes it into

the council room where they discuss things. I think this is the best way to do it so that's why we are planning the CAC workers to see what they can do about different problem to solve our problem and to discuss things in their chapter level. This is what we have in mind, it would be the best way to do. Many years ago people used to come around to different stores and talk about things in their area. so that's the reason why we wanted to remember to talk about things in their own way, discuss things in the right way in their chapter level. We made up this program for our people that it would be called the Community Action Committee because the discussion will be in the community and the action will come out of the committees. The Community Action Committees, will be called that way so now we have a big problem on our hands that we are going to..... the CAC members is just like advisor board committees, they can talk about things and solve our problems at their own chapter houses. From there on, when the problem and the program is lined up it can go on further on to different offices and then from there it keeps on raising up to the council level. This is the way that we have been discussing about the CAC members. The chapter.... check it this way from the councilman is in the councilman room, he talks in the council, maybe the people or the chairman wouldn't even listen to him what he is saying. It would be kind of hard for the councilman and then he turns around..... we have been discussing things all through the day long and time is getting

very short now and we will give others a chance to talk a little, so this is the way the CAC member is being discussed, that's the chapter, the councilman himself will be talking his head off.....(INAUDIBLE PART).....problem that has just been said in the chapter office. How can a man talk four ways and being brought up to the chapter officer. So, now we'll talk about the CAC, the CAC committee, action committee are to discuss things at their chapter houses. They'll talk about their people's needs what would they need. Sometime we have to have a very good hours from 7 to..... from 8 to 5; or or from 10 to 5; or from one to five. So, that's what our program is today. So, I think I have enough reason and showed you that what I meant in the chapter level that I like to draw you a little picture of what I mean that the CAC program this is in line of the BIA, it will be in groups with the agency and the CAC committee. And they will decide how things will run, run it is what you think it is right. The community will think in the best way and the important things will be brought by the people. I believe what is right and I believe what is wrong. This part of the word that comes from the Bible as the ten commandments and it goes on through the chapter officer so this is something like a chapter board member, the CAC is something like a chapter board.... chapter officer board member. You know what advisor board is, advisory board is people that discuss things and solve alot of problems so that it will work in good way. So now that we have the CAC

committees working with the chapter officer and the district council these three will work together. The CAC, the chapter officer and the councilmen. This way we will have things in the right way and not in the wrong way. The right way is good for our people, the wrong is bad for our people. Which we know of today, long time in a year of 1945 we didn't have such problem as we just went along by the tribal program and some of them didn't work out good, I don't know when we will be trading out of here. So, now the CAC is still having discussed as we have been going along. There is another problem that we have on hand here that which I think it fit in with what we have in line. There is a problem which called water line. There is another problem that we have been discussed so far that the water line can be built in different area. This is what alot of people are asking. So I think this is how the CAC member will be running the chapter line and in the district for the time being until there is something else being discussed. This is a long, a very long program which is now..... we are all talking about, about the CAC working together with the BIA. I think it will be running pretty good, about the idea which the Navajo people would like, idea about what I am telling you all now you can think who or which is right. The CAC should discuss most of the problem brought to the chapter houses. This is the way they all can work together there are people in the back that want some help, but we don't know what to say and to do. It is not hard to do

all these things. Don't talk about each other on discussion in the chapter houses. This is a program for the CAC and the chapter officer. So this is a job for a man that knows about people, his people. This is what you give, this is what.... why we are giving you a changing in the program and let us look into all these programs, the people can do all these things in their problem. We do think that we all wish to do all the things. Why have the CAC and the community in the chapter houses, how long will the CAC be in the member, a year or two or four years? The CAC will never die, it will go on and on forever in the tribe, how many CAC members shall be.... will there be four or five..... will there be four or five? What shall.... if they are fixed in the number they will be paid, what would the CAC program, will be in the chapter meeting, remember all these things in your community area. All these problems shall go forward, all the time in the community. What shall you do in the community chapter houses? There are alot of different kinds of people in the community area, who will be the community chairman of the CAC. Also, in the chapter house also vice chairman and the secretary also. Guys for all the community members and the CAC members and this is the one for the CAC member. The CAC members should be the ones that can think of all things and know its people and the community area. The CAC members should know all things. This is the one who will be the CAC members, should know what all is going on in its area. All the CAC members should go every

meeting in its country. This is the way the CAC should be selected. The CAC should be selected from the chapter level, the community people of the chapter can select the CAC and then at the point now the discussion on the CAC number. There shall be five CAC members, out of that 5, there should be a chairman and a vice chairman and a secretary. This way it would look alot better to....people and the CAC member must know mostly all things that is coming up and shall discuss all problems that comes ahead, and the chairman of the CAC must be appointed from the chapter community. The people of the chapter members must select and appoint the chairman, the vice chairman and the secretary and this way we will know what we were doing and what we are talking about. There has been alot of discussion about the CAC member so far and I think people have enough to talk about the CAC discussion. Group discussion was set up in different room, discussion was made by the leader training. CAC members.....TAPE INAUDIBLE..... 6 group decided to have five CAC member in the group. So I think the five CAC member wins in the group. The term of the CAC should be four years, just like the chapter officer are being elected. The CAC will be in the CAC members for four years and then it's up to the people if they decided to re-elected the CAC, they can go ahead and do it, just like the chapter officer. Some of the chapter officer has about 5 to 10 year terms. So this is most of our discussion has been set up in the discussion of the CAC program. We sure had a long talk about the CAC. I

think it would be a very good program later on as we been talking so long about the CAC. It looks to me that it just like in the earliest days like people was talking about the kiva. The kiva talk. The kiva talk used to be just like the Community Action Committee. They talk about a certain thing, a certain problem and until they straighten out what they are talking about. This is.... this was what the older people in the early days has their story from. So, I think it's in the same line today. We are talking about the Community Action Committee.... Many years ago back in the ancient time, they have something like that same line, the Community Action Committee. They talk about building houses, they talk about guarding mostly and until they straighten it out they quit discussing. This was what the kiva was made for and this is something like in the same line of the kiva talk. And then I don't know what else to tell you my friend, so I think I will quit here and I thank you very much for listening this long. I might have another chance about the CAC later on, I thank you..... Mr. Chairman..... Mr. Skeet..... I think we'll give our one of the ONEO director community leaders say a little word.... Mr. Roanhorse, a director from the ONEO office as community leader. Mr. Roanhorse has a little education but then he has the brain in the Navajo way, so that is the reason why that he was elected as the director of the LCTD program, LCTD program is program that to help all people, in its various ways. So I will.... So, Mr. Roanhorse will now say what he thinks about the meeting and himself, first he is going to tell

about himself and introduce himself. Mr. Roanhorse.... the LCTD director.... Chairman, vice chairman, secretary and the CAC members, chapter officers and the leadership members and the councilmen and the agency and the BIA and the listeners... I am very thankful to be..... the ONEO office which I just like to thank you all the way you are discussing problem which it is in a great meaning of our people and this is the way we should have it many years ago and now we got into where we are getting to realize all things in the way of life and looking too all these problem which you all discussing in a way of our people's life or in a need of help of all kinds. You are getting to where to be a good leader as a director it is a different problem. As a director you have to be a director, direct the office, but that's not.... but that is not a community action committee. Community Action Committee talks about all things that comes up what she or he thinks is right. The CAC is a member that solve our problem for its people and its needs.... This is what you are talking about and I been listening for hours after hours which I know what you are in a very well start. You have asked alot of good question about the CAC and pre-school. Every member that has been in the CAC line has asked the question. That is what we want for our people do to have more better mind to have more better leading leadership. As you people working together just like a strong team, talk together, meet together and discuss things together and solve all problems together. This makes a good team for

other people. So I don't know what else to say about your people, you are doing very very fine in a way that I was listening, from here which I know that you a very good start from another 100 years from now there will be a lot of change. I know I'm not going to live another 100 years, I think things will change lots different but so far that we know of, that we are doing fine. You are making and talking as a good living world. That's the way our people ought to live in the coming generation. Many years ago all the whole nation in the world looks like they started out wild, they started out without no food, no transportation, they used to walk long distance to meet each other. It looks like in these days they didn't have no horse to ride. There was no meat to eat for meat. There were alot of things that we didn't have as the people has stories from ancient time. As I know for myself that my Navajo people has the same story of the Bible story but still they don't meet others. Some places there is barely close a story that is. I have known many legends and culture story that my grandfather had told me in the past years when he was alive. I've heard about a Community Action Committee in the earliest days of the ancient time people. The story that tells about the sand painting stories and the chant stories. Most of us people still believe what was right and what was wrong. This is the way we have many, many years ago. People know how, people in these days already knew how to build houses. They didn't use no adobe houses, they have used rocks to build houses. That's what we

see in these ruins there are rock walls a very thick walls where nothing can hit. So I think in these earliest days they have some kind of war among themselves or else they have image of some kind. It might be the monster birds or the monster animals that people has talk about. As I know that they used to have underground building which people had dug out years ago. There are pictures of it in these ruins, people can go and have visit these ruins if they wish to go. You can study alot of things in these ruins, it tells you about how they used to live in the earliest days. As we know how the windows are built and there is different hole from the side of the window. I have visit Mesa Verde ruins and the Pueblo Bonito ruins, there is where I study most of my stories that I'm telling you. That is why I say that the old ancient time people used to live that way according to their building. Today we got a different type of building but then it is pretty near like that but, our rock buildings are bigger stone. These people in the ancient time they have a very small rock, a very thin, small tiny rocks that are built into the wall, we just can't figure how they brought them around from different parts of the country and we don't see how it's been haul but most of us thinks that it's been carried on the back in some kind of sack or some kind of a weaved baskets. It looks like they carried it in and then dump and some others can pick it up and build it out of mud, adobe mud. So I think it is been well fixed as we have seen it still standing up in

different area. They have been there for around at least 1000 years or more. They are still up as we know. There are been bones, skeletons, of all sorts of skeletons, large and small. We just wondering what happened, they are buried in these ruins where they used to live. There must be something happen, nobody knows, but some of the story of our old ancient time story in the Navajo ways we still think about some of the sand painting stories and the song story are truth about what our people has told in their chant stories and we still believe them. So I think that they are mostly truth about what they have told about their ancient ruin. In these early days, I like to tell you and talk about more about the only ancient ruins but time is getting short on us and people are getting tired so I think we will be concluding our story up to the hour and it will be lunch time pretty soon and bed time pretty soon. So I am very thankful to talk to you this much and listening carefully and you have a very good program today..... I thank you all.

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(side one)