

the United States, is ready to be terminated and ready to be released from Federal control.

In 1938 at a hearing before the Indian subcommittee in this very village, the Indians asked to be freed from Federal supervision. In 1954 we testified before Congress that we could be ready for termination in 10 years. We are ready now.

Only a small operation is necessary to manage our tribal holdings, which are the Spa, two cemeteries, five canyons and our tribal building, since all the remaining lands are allotted.

Only through a termination program that is constructive and free of Bureau restrictions will the Indian be allowed to exercise his intelligence in the business and economic world, and allow him to assume his responsibility in the community and his country.

One of the tribal members, Mr. Larry Pierce, whose intelligence and ability was recognized and commented upon by his commanding officer while he was in the service and applied for his fee patent, and who has finished 2 years of college, says we cannot be terminated because we are not educated. Yet, because of his very background he, as a man, should be more willing to assume his responsibility in the community instead of trying to selfishly find a property tax shelter.

Only through termination will you free the Indian from his guardians, conservators, council, business managers, and attorneys, who invest Indians' money at a low or no return or without security, or deal with the Indians' properties to their own self-interest.

Only through termination will you allow the Indian to seek the counsel of business managers and attorneys who are ethical, trustworthy, and working to the best interest of clients, because only through termination will the Indian be able to make the choices that he feels are to his best interest.

Although I am aware that this committee is not a termination committee, I certainly hope that you realize that termination is the only solution to the problem you are investigating. If and when a termination committee is organized, I would be more than happy to travel wherever the hearings may be held at my expense so that I may give my ideas and recommendations for a successful termination program. Thank you.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Thank you, Mrs. Ortner. I have a couple of questions here. I'm sure the other members will have some questions, also. I compliment you upon your frankness in stating your views.

Mrs. ORTNER. Thank you.

Mr. EDMONDSON. One question I would like to ask you is, whether you have read the letter from Mr. Udall to Mr. Aspinall which is the subject of your comment on page 1 of your statement?

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You have read it.

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. EDMONDSON. And, did you say that in that letter the Secretary of the Interior stated that the blame lies at the doors of some members of the local bar and court?

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You think that's a fair statement of Mr. Udall's statement on that subject?

Mrs. ORTNER. I can't say whether I think it's fair, but he made the