

statement such as he did in his letter. I feel this way, that the investigation that was conducted should have been with more conference with the people that were involved and the accused, and I don't think that it's fair to blame the local bar or the attorneys without having some conference with them before you publish in the papers that all the things they are doing are wrong.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Let me read to you two quotes from the letter to Mr. Aspinall which I have here, dated April 2, 1968, the transmittal letter for the report, I assume you are talking about?

Mrs. ORTNER. That's the one.

Mr. EDMONDSON. "In all frankness I must say that I am appalled that the state of affairs described in the report has not only existed under ostensible State and Federal supervision; it has flourished." Now, that's the first statement. Let me read the second one to you. "The task force also found that a share of the responsibility for the present state of affairs in Palm Springs rests upon the shoulders of this Department."

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Would you say that Mr. Udall put a share of the blame for this situation here upon his own department, the Bureau of Indian Affairs itself, in this letter?

Mr. ORTNER. Yes, it did, definitely, which I think is justifiable.

Mr. EDMONDSON. But, don't you think that it's a little bit out of place then for you to state in your statement that he puts the blame on the door of members of the local bar and the court?

Mrs. ORTNER. Maybe I should have said in my statement that he put a share of the blame on his own department.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I think he was pretty emphatic in his letter in saying that he's appalled by the Federal supervision situation and that he feels a share of the blame lies on the Department.

Mrs. ORTNER. True.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I'm not quarreling with your statement about his attribution of blame to the bar and the court, because he's emphatic about that, too, but I think he also recognizes in this letter that his department must share the blame.

Mrs. ORTNER. This is true.

Mr. EDMONDSON. It is stated pretty emphatically in his letter.

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You made a reference a little bit ago to a tribal election that was not conducted legally. What tribal election was that?

Mrs. ORTNER. According to our constitution and bylaws, all the adult members are to receive an election ballot. It's been the procedure in the last few years, I don't recall, two or three, to send them out as if they were absentee ballots, and all the balloting is to be done by mail. To my knowledge, speaking with Mrs. Miguel, she and her brother and one other member of the tribe never did receive the registered letter or even a notification that the balloting was being held, or tried to be delivered by the post office.

Mr. EDMONDSON. What election was this?

Mrs. ORTNER. The annual tribal election where you elect your tribal council for the coming year, or certain members, for a certain period of years.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Who was the lady who did not receive her ballot?