

Mr. EDMONDSON. It's available, really to a particular individual who is able to prove his competency, isn't it?

Mrs. ORTNER. Certainly.

Mr. EDMONDSON. So, you could accomplish it with an application, couldn't you?

Mrs. ORTNER. I most certainly could, but as I said myself, selfishness has prevented me from taking advantage of it, because actually, I receive my monthly income, which is very good, and you're putting a little nest egg away so that when you do have your taxing, then you're able to meet it.

Mr. EDMONDSON. The point I'm making is, in your instance, assuming that you are competent—and you appear to be highly competent to me—there is no roadblock to your having termination, is there?

Mr. ORTNER. No; but there is no hardship for me being in the position I'm in now, either.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Do you gentlemen have anything?

Mr. BURTON. I'd like to go back to this election. You say there were four members of the present council who were elected in March?

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. BURTON. Were there—

Mrs. ORTNER. No, no, no. There was the chairman who was elected on uneven years for 2 years, I guess it is, or the even years for a 2-year period, and then our tribal members are elected on a yearly basis, so it would be 3.

Mr. BURTON. Did the candidates that were running in March have opposition?

Mrs. ORTNER. Not that I know of; no.

Mr. BURTON. In other words, it was just their names on the ballot?

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. BURTON. So, what difference did the two or three ballots make?

Mrs. ORTNER. Well, I would be very indignant if I never received my ballot for a primary that I'm voting in next Tuesday, or if I didn't receive my ballot for a presidential election, and I think it's only fair when you pass 21 that you are to get your election ballot, that you should receive it.

Mr. BURTON. I certainly agree with that, and I can't understand why this lady did not phone up the Bureau and say, "Where's my ballot? I want to vote."

Mrs. ORTNER. I cannot answer for Mrs. Miguel. She will have to answer for that herself. All I know is that she spoke to me about it, and the unfairness about it.

Mr. BURTON. It's my understanding, Mrs. Ortner, that in reading this report and information we have here, that the tribal council meets twice a month. Is that your understanding?

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes.

Mr. BURTON. And, to your knowledge, have these meetings been open to the public? Are they open to the public?

Mrs. ORTNER. They are open to any member, any tribal member, not to the general public.

Mr. BURTON. They are open to any member?

Mrs. ORTNER. That's right.

Mr. BURTON. It's my understanding that tape recordings are kept