

Congressmen in Palos Verdes to request a copy of it, as I have done in the past, but I knew nothing about it until March.

Mr. TUNNEY. That's all I have; thank you.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I'd just like to come back to one further point and that has to do with the election, and your very strong language about the tribal council not conducting tribal elections legally. Is the tribal council prohibited from running for reelection, being reelected?

Mrs. ORTNER. No.

Mr. EDMONDSON. So, the tribal council can be reelected indefinitely, if they are able to get the votes?

Mrs. ORTNER. Oh, surely, surely.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Well, under the circumstances, don't you think that it's probably a fairer situation to have the tribal council not be responsible for mailing out the ballots and seeing who gets the ballots and so on, and having it conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs which has the official records of tribal members, rather than having the tribal council be the responsible agency in charge of mailing out the ballots?

Mrs. ORTNER. I don't care who mails them out. That isn't my point. My point is the fact that they should see, they have the responsibility to see that every member receives a ballot, and your ballots are mailed out in plenty of time in advance and the return receipt is requested and mailed back to the office, so it isn't a matter of not knowing who has received a ballot and who has not.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Some of these council members were candidates, from what you told me. Do you think a candidate for office has the responsibility to see that every voter in his constituency receives a ballot?

Mrs. ORTNER. I feel that with the small membership that we have; what is it? Forty-seven adult members. I don't think it's any pain or strain of this local tribal council to see that every member has a ballot.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Unless you called them up and asked about it, how would they know that you have not received a ballot?

Mrs. ORTNER. Before they'd even transported them and—that's not my quarrel. My quarrel is that the tribal council—

Mr. EDMONDSON. You charge that the tribal council illegally conducted an election, and I think your language is pretty strong without documentation here, and particularly since the evidence that I think has been received is that the Bureau of Indian Affairs sends out the ballots and not the tribal council. Now, to charge them with an illegal conduct of an election is pretty strong language, I'd say. It comes about on the same level with your charge about the Secretary of the Interior blaming everything on the courts and not recognizing his own Department is at fault in this.

Mrs. ORTNER. I possibly misread what I said here, but I do feel that the responsibility to see that everybody receives a ballot lies with the tribal council.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Do you think the tribal council should have to determine that every person has received a ballot?

Mrs. ORTNER. Yes; every adult member, I think they should. It's been done in the past, and it should be continued, as such. Whether