

that individual exercises his right to vote is his prerogative, but every member should receive a ballot.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You don't think it is possible that some individual might have had a miscarriage of his mail, or might even have thrown the mail out with the bills that he didn't want to pay, and that there might have been a mistake on the part of some individual, rather than the tribal council committing an illegal act?

Mrs. ORTNER. I have known Mrs. Miguel for many years and she's a woman of integrity, and I respect her highly.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You do not think it is possible that she might have accidentally misplaced her ballot?

Mrs. ORTNER. No, I do not. I have no feeling of that whatsoever. If she says she didn't receive a ballot, she did not receive a ballot.

Mr. EDMONDSON. If there are no more questions?

Mr. TUNNEY. No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BURTON. No further questions.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Thank you. Our next witness is Mr. James Hollowell.

Mr. HOLLOWELL. May I defer to some people who have shorter testimony?

Mr. EDMONDSON. You would like to be heard this afternoon?

Mr. HOLLOWELL. Yes, sir. Some of the testimony is short, and some of these people would like to go home.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I think that's a reasonable request. We would be very happy to.

Mr. HOLLOWELL. Thank you.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Mr. August Kettmann.

STATEMENT OF AUGUST G. KETTMANN, ACTING POSTMASTER, PALM SPRINGS, CALIF.

Mr. KETTMAN. Mr. Chairman, members of your committee, tribal council, and guests, my name is August G. Kettmann. I am presently the acting postmaster in Palm Springs, and for purposes of identification, I want to state that I served as chief of police in Palm Springs from April 1945 to June 1964, with a year out in 1953, and as a conservator from June 1965 to date.

With this background, I've had some considerable acquaintance with the Agua Caliente Band of Mission Indians and their circumstances for the last 23 years.

The majority of the variously estimated 50 members in 1945 lived on the westerly half of section 14, a 640-acre square of land bordered on the west by Indian Avenue, north by Alejo Road, and on the south by Ramon Road. This section is centrally located and abuts on 1 mile of choice business frontage. It is probably the most valuable square mile in Palm Springs.

My purpose here today is to provide some historical information. On the Indian Avenue frontage, in 1945, there were one-story frame, or frame and stucco cottages, small businesses, and low-cost motels and rentals. Within 100 feet, a slum condition existed, with several hundred persons, including the Indian landlords, occupying substandard dwellings, shacks made of sheetmetal, tin, and cardboard. There were