

heard from Mr. Schlesinger, another attorney, that he felt that the system as it operated here in Palm Springs for the administration of the Indian estates was not working adequately. Do you feel that the administration of these estates is inadequate; and, if so, what changes would you recommend?

Mr. HOLLOWELL. Sir, I do not believe that we need both the systems. There is a useless overlapping. My thought is, let the Government handle it all, or have the guardian-conservator system, or something like it. I agree completely with Mr. Schlesinger regarding the conservator system, that it is imperfect like any other; but it works, and it's more of a better tuned-in system to allow our Indian clients to get into society and fit in rather than holding him as a ward of the Government forever; but the two systems side by side are horrendous, because you have a double take imposed upon a double take. I can summate a lease deal in 2 weeks, even if it's a 30-page lease, by working hard; and compound that with the Bureau and send it, it would take me 6 months. I'm prejudiced, I'm partial. I feel that a somewhat selfish self-motivated businessman or attorney trying to make a fee for himself and make money for his client will do the job faster and better than the Government as it is set up now. The two systems overlapping on each other is hard.

Mr. TUNNEY. I yield to the chairman.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You have so testified, I think, that in one instance, and I would assume this would apply to your feelings across the board in similar cases, that you did not feel a particular problem about checking out the value of a piece of land for purchase purposes because the Bureau of Indian Affairs is going to be checking it, and they would make the determination on that, and you have no hesitancy in submitting a proposal for a deal to go through involving a client because you felt the Bureau of Indian Affairs would protect the client in terms of the value that you had included in this particular transaction. Now, could it be that a good part of the reason for the time consumed at the Bureau end of it is that is the feeling that you have expressed is widely held and everybody is expecting the Bureau to protect the Indian in terms of his rights and his getting a fair value for his money?

Mr. HOLLOWELL. No, sir. I hate to criticize the Government that bad, but they aren't set up to go into competitive business. It's just too slow and there's too much redtape.

Mr. EDMONDSON. And, the question of the value of the deal that is proposed to the Indian and the value of the property that it is proposed he acquire, is not basic and fundamental to a determination of whether it is a good proposition?

Mr. HOLLOWELL. Are you referring to generalities, now?

Mr. EDMONDSON. I'm referring to generalities, and to specifics, both.

Mr. HOLLOWELL. In general——

Mr. EDMONDSON. In general, how can you make a judgment as to whether things are a good investment or a good deal if you ignore the matter of value on a particular land and leave that judgment to be made by somebody else?

Mr. HOLLOWELL. We had no choice, and this is one of our problems. The Bureau has the last say. We must use their appraisal.