

Just like this little baby here, they would say the baby is incompetent. It can't talk, it can't think for itself so we have to do it's thinking for her. Well, that's what the Agency says about the Indians. Of course Indians goes, he makes wills, he does this and that. Then when he comes there well, the agency does a lot different things toward these Osages here. Like I say, it's the Department Courts over competency of an Osage Indian. Just like now there's a case pending in court now where this one Indian had his wills wrote, made up. The court doesn't know which one to decide on, which is the real will, see. The Indian he was incompetent, but they let him go ahead and make a will. They should have not done it. We try to say that, we try to--the Indians have a go at--try to get things done right for the Indians. In your case, you're a minor, but they throw that on the adult Indian anyway, to show he is incompetent, he can't have his own business. And then you have--then if you want out from under that, if you want to take that name away from yourself, you want to be competent now, see. That's the word competent and incompetent. 'Competent is you're capable of handling your own affairs, your own business. Incompetent you're not, you're not able to do that, see that's what ~~incompetent~~ means. I don't like it myself, cause it doesn't give you a fair shake.

(Now do the Otoes do that?)

Yeah, it's the same thing, but we don't call it competency, I mean dumb; not able or something. It's the same. I mean, all Indian tribes have it. The word competency, it is more widely used, it is more so used among the Osages than the other tribes. But the word is there, competency, I mean, you know, in other words, my name or our name is not worth the paper our name is written on. We can make any kind the white man--the white man can take us to court sue us, we don't have to pay. But the law again--the way the Osage agency--well they don't try to see that the Indian don't make these kind of deals.