

Well, it's legal--these laws still stand, but they're not enforced. That's what this here organization is going for--this O.N.O. is trying to enforce some of these laws that the Osages have. Just like that, if you write a will you ought to try to get around the word incompetent, all Indians are incompetent. Unless they ask for what they call competency papers. They turn you loose, see. That's what it is. Then you're not under the jurisdiction of the government, government anymore. Government turns you loose, and you're like a citizen of the United States, I guess. You are a citizen in the word what it means, but you're still under the supervision of the government. The government supervises your affairs. Your tribal affairs, and your individual affairs, your lands and holdings. So gain, you apply, well I want out from underneath this thing here. I want to be competent. I think I'm competent. I am able to handle my own business. So you apply for your--you heard the word competency papers haven't you?

Third Voice: Well, if that's what that is.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED

They give 'em to you, it's a certificate that you will be treated like a white man. The agency pays you off, give your land to you, takes it off the restriction--lifts the restriction off it--restricted status that it has, the government won't have nothing to do with your land, you do with it as you please. That's bad for some of the Indians. I don't like it for some of these that have got it and then they've lost everything they had. They proved that they're not competent. I know it happened here in the Osage--among the Osages because the tribesman never ~~by~~ anything. 'Course they can make applications for. (Why did people apply for that--their papers?)

Just to get out. Just to think they're smart to get out from underneath the government. Don't want to have nothing about government. They think they can be better off. See, that's the way the Indian is. If he's under the jurisdiction of the agency, he doesn't pay taxes on his land, see, he doesn't pay--