



10-11-1933

Letter regarding Water Issues from Governor Langer to Nebraska Governor Bryan, 1933

William Langer

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October 11, 1933

Hon. Charles W. Bryan
Governor of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Governor Bryan:

I was very happy to get your telegram of yesterday and this morning advised you that I had telegraphed Secretary Ickes as follows:

"In view of the fact that larger portion of federal money spent on public roads goes to labor than goes to labor in any other construction work and in view of fact that agricultural states will receive more benefit from development of roads than from any other kind of federal expenditure from Industrial Recovery Act money, I earnestly urge that another allotment be apportioned to the states for development of highways equal to sum already available."

May I not, Governor Bryan, give you another suggestion? That is, I believe we should get all the money we possibly can for the establishment of thousands of dams in the northwestern part of the United States. Here in North Dakota our streams are dried up. Hundreds of farmers are without water, and have had to haul the same as far as twelve miles. We simply have to have at least one, and possibly two, Missouri River Diversion projects, such as the one suggested at Fort Peck and the other one at Garrison. Our lakes have receded and this western part of the State is going back to the debris stage unless we plant millions of trees and provide for thousands of dams. The situation is truly pathetic.

Hon. Charles W. Bryan

- 2 -

10/11/33

It will be a genuine pleasure to me if, before you endorse these dams and reforestation work, you would send up your State Engineer to ascertain the true situation. I know that if you do that, you will take off your coat and help.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Governor