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Letter from Representative Burdick to Oscar Berg et al. Regarding Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council, January 14, 1952

Usher Burdick

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January 11, 1952.

Mr. Oscar Berg,
Mr. Percy Rush,
Mr. Rufus Stevenson,
Mr. Jim Blackdog,
Ellenwood, North Dakota.

Gentlemen:

If you feel that the Tribal Council of Fort Berthold Indian Reservation is violating the Constitution and by-laws under which the Council was created, or if you feel that they are not handling the business of the Indians in a proper manner and are creating too much expense against the funds of the Indians, or if you feel that this Council is assuming authority not vested in them, you could set this all out in a petition to the Secretary of the Interior and ask for a hearing on the whole matter.

If your regular Tribal Council attorney feels he cannot act in your behalf, since he is attorney for the Council, you have a right to your own Council to assist you at this hearing, and I believe the Secretary of the Interior will not see you unprotected in this hearing and will allow reasonable compensation to such attorney as you, yourselves, choose.

All particulars should be set out in your petition so that the other side will know what to answer for.

Yours very truly,

Usher L. Burdick, M. C.