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## Letter from Representative Burdick to Howard McGrath Regarding Tribal Business Council, January 21, 1952

Usher Burdick

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January 21, 1932.

Honorable Howard McGrath,  
Attorney General of the  
United States,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McGrath:

The Indians at Fort Berthold are in a very unsettled state. They sold their land to the government for cash purposes for \$12,500,000 and it seems that the tribal business council, under the supervision of the Indian Bureau, propose to use this money as they see fit, after allotting to each Indian concerned \$1,000. The purpose behind the action of the Tribal Business Council seems to be to use the rest of this money in a casual way, instead of letting each Indian handle his own business.

There is a rumor that some of this money is being expended by the Tribal Business Council in an unauthorized way and that, therefore, about 80% of the Indians are aroused against this action.

These representatives who have called on you represent this complaining group and they want the F. B. I. to investigate the condition of these funds. I have been of the opinion that, unless there is some crime charged, your F. B. I. would not act. If I am wrong in this and an investigation can be made by the F. B. I., I would like to see it done and determine whether this fund is intact or whether it is being unlawfully dissipated.

Yours very truly,

Usher L. Duvick, M. C.