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Letter from Martin Cross to Representative Burdick Forwarding a Resolution Passed by the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council, and Expressing Concern over Withdrawal of Government Assistance, April 25, 1951

Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council

Martin Cross

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MARTIN T. CROSS, SR.

Chairman, Tribal Council

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

Fort Berthold Reservation

ELBOWOODS, NORTH DAKOTA

April 25, 1951

Honorable Usher L. Burdick
U. S. House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Honored Sir:

I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of Resolution adopted by the Tribal Business Council of the Fort Berthold Reservation, of April 13, 1951. You will find the Resolution self-explanatory.

Adoption of this Resolution and the language contain therein directing the administration of the funds awarded us by the Act of 437, has caused no end of worrying among some of the people.

Some people have hinted that if we divided up our funds, the Government might "turn the Indians loose" and withdraw the various kinds of assistance and services rendered through the facilities of the Indian Bureau.

We do not know whether this is true and we think we ought to know before our people take any steps in matters pertaining to it.

I would appreciate your writing and giving your views.

Sincerely I am,

Martin Cross

Martin Cross

MC:cs
Enclosure

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the people of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, have had under consideration the manner in which their funds in the amount of \$7,500,000.00 should be utilized to best advantages; and

WHEREAS, the following petition presented upon request of the Lucky Mound Community was approved by vote of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation in a Special Meeting held at Aberdeen, South Dakota, April 13, 1951, by a vote of 4 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions and the Chairman not voting:

We, the undersigned, members of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, do hereby petition the Tribal Business Council, Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior, to approve the following measures using our \$7,500,000.00

1. \$2,500,000.00 for a rehabilitation and economic development program, for the members of the Three Affiliated Tribes, to be worked out by the people and to be approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior.
2. A per capita payment of \$1,000.00 to each member of the Three Affiliated Tribes.
3. \$2,500,000.00 to remain in the Treasury to cover the cost of relocation in excess of the \$5,105,-625.00 as provided under Public Law 437; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Berthold Reservation lacks sufficient resources to support the entire Indian population; and

WHEREAS, certain members of the Three Affiliated Tribes have expressed a desire for the development of sound economic programs outside the reservation area; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes feels that enrolled members of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation should have the opportunity for the development of sound economic programs either on or off the reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes feels that enrolled members desiring to do so should have opportunity to relinquish their tribal membership and waive all claims to any future tribal rights, income and assets on behalf of themselves, their heirs and assigns, in consideration for receiving their per capita share of tribal assets, including the foregoing \$7,500,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the petition approved by vote of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes, this date, is either silent or ambiguous on the effect of the petition on those enrolled members of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation desiring to locate off the reservation and either retain or relinquish their membership in the Three Affiliated Tribes under the terms of this resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, in a special

meeting assembled at Aberdeen, South Dakota, on April 13, 1951, that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior approve the following general program for the use of the \$7,500,000.00 accruing to the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation for damages as the result of the Garrison Dam Project of the Missouri River Basin Development Program:

1. An amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.00 for rehabilitation and economic development of the enrolled members of the Three Affiliated Tribes, resident or non-resident, under approved programs developed by the people and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior.
2. An amount of \$1,000 per capita shall be paid to each enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, resident or non-resident.
3. The balance shall remain in reserve in the U. S. Treasury to cover the cost of relocation in excess of the \$5,105,-625.00, as provided under Public Law 437, and for such other purposes as the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes may hereafter approve.
4. The Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation may authorize payment out of any available portion of the foregoing \$7,500,000.00 of the per capita interest of any tribal member in tribal assets in consideration for the relinquishment by said member in behalf of himself, his heirs and assigns, of all claims to any future tribal rights, income and assets.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as secretary of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation Corporation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council of the Corporation is composed of Ten members, of whom 9 constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting thereof duly and regularly called, notice, convened, and held this 13 day of April 19, 1951; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 4 members; 1 opposed, 3 abstentions and the Chairman not voting; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.


George Gillette
Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation