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Letter from H.F. Gierke, Jr. to Representative Burdick Regarding Questions He Wishes to See Addressed at April 4 Hearing, March 28, 1952

H. F. Gierke Jr.

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SUNRISE RANCH

H. F. Gierke Jr. Owner 3-22-52

Watford City, North Dakota



Hon Usher L Burdick,

Washington, D C

Dear Mr Burdick;

Yours of Mar, 24th at hand and these are questions that I think should be asked at your hearing. How many cars have the Indians bought in the last yr, how many tractors, how many acres were plowed or tons of hay put up with these tractors, how many cattle were bought and how were they paid for.

Why havent the locations of schools, churches and towns to be built been given to the Indians so they can plan intelligently? Why havent some kind of roads been built to enable the people to start improving their prospective homes? Why havent roads been bulldozed into the river bottoms so the Indians can get timber before it is flooded? Why was nearly 100,000\$ spent 2 yrs ago to drill wells in the damndest places you could imagine, when the entire area is well watered with springs. The biggest question of all is why would they locate their agency at Newtown. I agree with Bigelow Neal in that Newtown will not have enough trade territory to support a town and even from a business standpoint I would hesitate to build in any town that was mortgaged as heavily as Newtown will be. The agencys share of that obligation would make a substantial payment on a town on the reservation. The Mckenzie Co R. E. A. would run a line to their town and the Co. would aid in their road program.

Received a letter from an Indian Woman yesterday, a Miss Alice McElroy, whos indian name is Alice Olddog, incidently she is Martin Cross's sister

She is getting old in yrs and would like to sell her land. The Indian appraisal is 4¢ per acre. She has been trying for a yr. to get her patent so she can sell it to the white man but Im sure the application never gets past the

Agency, ask Martin.



Resp yours
H. F. Gierke Jr