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Letter from Representative Burdick to Martin Cross Regarding the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Decision to Reject Per Capita Payments, June 2, 1954

Usher Burdick

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June 2, 1954

Mr. Martin Cross
Emmet, North Dakota

Dear Martin:

Thank you for your letter of May 27, and for the copy of the letter to Secretary McKay which you enclosed.

I am very sorry that the Commissioner did not give any consideration to your requests for the per capita payments but you know how the Indian Bureau hates to let go of any money, once they get their hands on it. When we contacted the Commissioner's office we were told that they had decided that the money should be retained for rehabilitation and relocation work and did not think it wise to make the per capita payments.

It is a disheartening situation, and you may be sure I shall do what I can at all times to secure for the Indians all the consideration possible. I am leaving for North Dakota this week, but my office staff will take care of any requests you may feel it is desirable to make if you decide to proceed in your attempts to get a reversal of their present position.

My best wishes to you and all the members of the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick, M.C.