



10-25-1954

Election Questionnaire Sent from the Three Affiliated Tribes to Representative Burdick, October 25, 1954

Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation

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USHER SAYS THEY SHOULD KNOW HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THEIR FRIEND, BY NOW.

Affiliated Tribes
Fort Berthold Reservation
North Dakota

October 25, 1954

Chairman or Secretary of the Tribe by letter, wire, or telephone depending upon how much time is available.)

Hon. Usher L. Burdick
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Usher:

In preparation for the General Election on November 2, and for the information of our people will you kindly furnish us the answers to the following questions:

1. Will you, if elected, work vigorously and vote for:
 - (a) Legislation to extend the Indian Claims Commission Act (including time for filing claims)?
 - (b) A "fractionated lands" or "heirship" bill which Indians want?
 - (c) Amendment of Public Law 280 to provide for Indian CONSENT -- (consultation is not enough) ?
2. Will you, if elected, support the "Indians' position" on bills pending in Congress? (Meaning the position taken by official tribal governing bodies in duly constituted meetings and not the position taken by unauthorized delegates or organizations that do not represent official Indian point of view.)
3. Will you, if elected, personally go to the hearings before the Indian Subcommittees on Indian Affairs in Washington and testify in support of the Tribe's official position on any bill which the Tribe asks your help on?
4. Will you, if elected, write or wire back a report of what you did and how you voted on Indian legislation so the report can be made to the Council or other meetings of Indians?
5. Will you, if elected, get in touch with our Tribe or the office of NCAI in Washington on Indian legislation you may be required to act upon to determine whether Indians have taken an official position on the bill? (Note: The National Congress of American Indians will not quote any Tribe unless it has a tribal resolution concerning the matter in question, or unless it has a Convention Resolution which has been debated and acted upon by the Tribes assembled in annual convention. When NCAI is asked by any Congressman for information as to a Tribe's position on a bill, it will get in touch with the

Chairman or Secretary of the Tribe by letter, wire, or telephone depending upon how much time is available.)

We should like to have this information from you at the earliest possible date so that we can distribute it as widely as possible.

Yours very truly,



Martin Cross
Chairman Tribal Council
Fort Berthold Reservation

1st Vice President
National Congress of American Indians

President North Dakota Inter-State
Indian Council

Member, Executive Committee
Governors' Inter State Indian Council