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Letter from Ralph M. Shane to Representative Burdick Regarding Children Denied Enrollment to the Three Affiliated Tribes, April 29, 1955

Ralph M. Shane

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Fort Berthold Agency
New Town, North Dakota
April 29, 1955

Hon. Usher L. Burdick
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Burdick:

Reference is made to your telegram of April 27, 1955 asking for a full report on the reasons that children of Mesdames Alyce Machado, Viola C. Schettler, Carol Brugh Redford, Marcella Aldinger, and Ann Carlson have been denied enrollment as tribal members.

The tribal enrollment ordinance states that children of enrolled members of the tribe born away from the reservation must receive an affirmative vote of seven members of the Tribal Business Council for enrollment into the tribe. The Tribal Business Council has full authority to accept or reject enrollment into the Tribe.

The child of Viola Schettler has not been considered by either the enrollment committee or by the Tribal Council since application for enrollment was made on March 30, 1955. This application has not been brought up for consideration for enrollment to date.

Mrs. Alyce Machado has two children who have not been enrolled; their applications have been considered by the Tribal Council on several occasions and rejected because of failure to receive the necessary seven affirmative votes. The one child of Ann Carlson, and the one child of Mrs. Redford have likewise been considered on several occasions and have failed to receive seven affirmative votes. The children of Mesdames Machado, Carlson and Redford were all re-considered by the Tribal Council on Tuesday, April 12, 1955. The two children of Mrs. Machado received 5 affirmative votes and 4 negative votes, the child of Mrs. Carlson received 6 affirmative votes and 4 negative votes, and the child of Mrs. Redford received 5 affirmative votes and 4 negative votes. All of these children were rejected for lack of seven affirmative votes in accordance with the tribal enrollment ordinance.

Mrs. Marcella Aldinger's three children were given consideration at this same meeting and received 4 affirmative votes and 5 negative

votes and were rejected accordingly. However, the minutes of the meeting indicate a motion to reconsider at a later date the applications for enrollment of the three children of Mrs. Aldinger. This motion was seconded and carried.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph M. Shane

Ralph M. Shane
Superintendent