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Letter from Representative Burdick to Glenn Emmons Regarding US Senate Bill 2151 and Internal Tribal Conflict Regarding the Bill, February 15, 1956

Usher Burdick

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Write Walter Plenty Chief
and Frank Decont (Letter
sent to D'Amant - one in file)

February 15, 1956

The Honorable Glenn L. Emmons
Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Emmons:

I have your letter of February 9, written in reply to mine of January 20, with which I enclosed a letter from Walter Plenty Chief, Sr., of Garrison, North Dakota, and thank you for it.

I am, of course, familiar with S. 2151, which you mention, but it is this bill which the members of the Three Affiliated Tribes - as separate from the Tribal Council - are opposing.

I have a letter from another member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, in which he states that the people voted on this bill, and rejected it 37 to ~~4~~ in other words, unanimously. He lists the reasons for their opposition as follows:

1. It is designed to disorganize the Three Affiliated Tribes.
2. It does not take this money out of the Secretary's powers.
3. It is a long process and the people need their money now.
4. It is the Tribal Council's proposition and it certainly does not meet the approval of the people.
5. A direct approach to the Secretary, who has powers to make the per capita payment, would be best.

Even though the Department has recommended passage of the bill, I shall appreciate it if you will let me know if, in your opinion, the above listed reasons for the people's opposition are valid ones, and could the payments be expedited by following the suggestion in No. 5 above?

Unfortunately, I was not in the city when Martin Cross was here last week, so was unable to discuss the matter with him, as I should like to have done. It appears to me that there is much

friction between the Tribal Council and the people it is supposed to represent, and I feel that the protests of those who do not agree with the proposals of the Council should be given consideration.

I shall be most grateful for your reply and should like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick, M. C.