



2-28-1956

**Letter from Representative Burdick to Frank Heart Regarding a
Vote by the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold
Reservation to Redistrict the Reservation, February 28, 1956**

Usher Burdick

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/burdick-papers>

Recommended Citation

Burdick, Usher, "Letter from Representative Burdick to Frank Heart Regarding a Vote by the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation to Redistrict the Reservation, February 28, 1956" (1956). *Usher Burdick Papers*. 203.

<https://commons.und.edu/burdick-papers/203>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Usher Burdick Papers by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact und.common@library.und.edu.

Fort Berthold

February 28, 1956

Mr. Frank Heart
Emmett, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Heart:

It was impossible to get a report on the conference held at the Indian Bureau last Monday, February 20, until this morning. Miss Hicks just called, and here is what she said:

The purpose of the conference was to try to get a definite opinion from the Department solicitor on what can be done to hold a valid election at Fort Berthold. It was suggested that it might be possible to hold an election on the basis of the old districts — that is, to include the ones which have been flooded out and the residents relocated on account of the Garrison Dam.

The Indian Bureau plans to go to the solicitor with the request that the amendments necessary to change the tribal constitution be submitted to all tribal members, regardless of whether they now live on the reservation or not, and in that way get the necessary vote of 30 per cent which is required by the tribal constitution, and according to which in not less than 20 or more than 30 days after the amendments are adopted an election can be held.

It appears that there is a provision in the constitution which permits any member 21 years or over to vote. However, the Department has held that absentee voting is not permitted. Therefore, since there were not 30 per cent of the members voting, the constitution has not been amended to redefine the districts, and since the councilmen are elected on the basis of the districts it has been impossible to hold the elections.

These are the reasons the Indian Bureau has decided that the procedure outlined above is the best to follow.

If there is anything further I can do here please let me know. I will be expecting to see you next week.

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick, M. C.