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Letter from Representative Burdick to Martin Cross Regarding US Senate Bill 2151, March 28, 1956

Usher Burdick

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March 28, 1956

Mr. Martin Cross
Chairman, Tribal Business Council
Three Affiliated Tribes
New Town, North Dakota

Dear Martin:

So far as I know, the men you mention in your letter of March 26 made no attempt to get a full per capita payment at this time. What they wanted was enough money now to enable them to put in their crops this spring--and that included all the other Indians who had need for such help. I don't know what they promised the people, but that is what they talked about here.

No mention whatsoever was made of the provision that "The Secretary may require any segregated share of a member to be used to pay a debt that is owed by such person to the tribes or to the United States that is due and payable." In view of your statements, I am forced to wonder if there are not other members of the tribe who also owe debts that are due and payable to the tribes or the United States.

There was also some discussion of my bill H. R. 9324, which provides that the Indians be allowed to graze the land around the edge of the Garrison reservoir until such time as it is flooded.

In regard to S. 2151, how long will it take to prepare the membership roll mentioned therein and have it approved by the Secretary? Also, how long will it take to prepare the plans to be submitted by the adults who are entitled to the segregated shares?

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick, M. C.