



4-17-1956

Letter from Representative Burdick to William Dean Regarding Per Capita Payments, April 17, 1956

Usher Burdick

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April 17, 1956

Mr. William J. Dean
Treasurer, Tribal Business Council
Three Affiliated Tribes
New Town, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Dean:

Thank you for your letter of April 9. and for your
congratulations on my endorsement for Congress.

I have not introduced any amendment to your bill.
All I am trying to do is to see that the ranchers and farmers
get enough money to put in their crops when it is needed.

As to the debts owed to the Tribal Council, this
matter was not discussed with me. I do know, however, that
if a man is running cattle he has to have enough credit to carry
him through till he can increase his herd to the extent that he
has enough stock to sell off to pay up his debts. You can't make
money on cattle in one year, or two, or sometimes even in three.
A man has to have time for the natural increase to develop if he
is going to make a go of his business. If there are so many de-
linquent cash loans, perhaps there wasn't enough investigation of
the borrower's assets and capability before the loans were made.

As I wrote Martin Cross today, all I want to do is to be
helpful, and to see that everybody has a fair chance and fair treat-
ment. During the many years I have been down here and have tried
to do all I could to help the Indians, there has always been an opp-
osition group, and I suppose there always will be. It isn't likely
that every member of the tribe could agree on the various issues
that arise, and my only contention is that both sides have a right
to state their position and to have fair consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick, M. C.