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Letter from Representative Burdick to Martin Cross Regarding Per Capita Payment and the Current Tribal Conflict, April 17, 1956

Usher Burdick

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April 17, 1956

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

Dear Martin:

Thank you for your letter and also the resolution you sent me.

I don't want to have any quarrel with you or with the members of "the unauthorized group". I want to see you all get your per capita payments, and it doesn't make any difference to me how you do it, so long as you are all satisfied. However, I do know that there is only one time to plant seed, and if the ranchers and farmers need money now to put their crops in, I can see no reason for delaying the payments until it is too late to do any good this spring. I want to see everybody get a square deal, and if some of the members of the tribe don't agree with the plans of the Council there is no reason why they shouldn't have their say, and be listened to. I have no intention of upsetting your program, but I want to see justice for everybody. I don't believe in 'railroading' things through without giving both sides a right to be heard. That is a part of our American way of life.

Also, I seem to remember, a number of years ago, before you were on the Council, that you were one of an "unauthorized group" and got me to introduce some legislation in opposition to what the Council then wanted. So it works both ways.

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick, M. C.