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**Letter from Representatives of the Three Affiliated Tribes to Glenn Emmons Summarizing Meeting on Legislation and Enclosing a Resolution of the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council, April 26, 1956**

Martin Cross

William Deane

Q. R. Schulte

Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 26, 1956

Honorable Glenn L. Emmons  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

Martin Cross, Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Fort Berthold Reservation, New Town, North Dakota, William Deane, member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, and Q. R. Schulte, attorney for said tribes, met with the staff of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 25, 1956 relative to the implementation and practical application of the proposed legislation, S. 2151 and H. R. 10221.

The representatives of the Three Affiliated Tribes were very pleased with the meeting and now make request of the Commissioner for a written statement to be sent forthwith to Martin Cross, Chairman, New Town, North Dakota covering the agenda of said meeting and affirming the opinion of the said representatives concerning the results of the meeting.

The following matters were discussed and the results arrived at were as follows:

1. That full cooperation would be exercised between the Three Affiliated Tribes and the Indian Bureau in expediting the practical application of the said bills.
2. That all means would be taken to transfer the money involved to the individual members as quickly as possible.
3. That the Bureau staff would take immediate steps in clearing the money involved for immediate payment upon passage of said bill, subject to the approval of the individual family plan.
4. That the Three Affiliated Tribes would commence the preparation of individual family plans immediately.
5. That said plans should contain provision for education, food, clothing, shelter, business or ranching plans and payment of delinquent indebtedness.
6. That upon passage of the bill the money would immediately be transferred to the individual Indian accounts, subject to the approval of the family plan before actual distribution.

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7. That all delinquent indebtedness to the United States Government and individual delinquent indebtedness to the Three Affiliated Tribes must be paid before distribution to the individual and authorized deduction will be made at the local agency level.

8. That the processing of the individual family plans shall be handled speedily and efficiently with the purpose in mind to make immediate payment of the monies involved. It was felt that if the family plans were cleared at the local level payment would be forthcoming.

We would appreciate a prompt reply substantiating the information contained herein.

Respectfully submitted,

SGD. MARTIN CROSS  
Martin Cross, Chairman  
Three Affiliated Tribes Council

SGD. WM. J. DEANE  
William Deane, member  
Three Affiliated Tribes Council

SGD. Q. R. SCHULTE  
Q. R. Schulte, Counsel  
Three Affiliated Tribes

Q&S lf

Resolution No. 56-35

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION

WHEREAS, S. 1523, an Act to authorize enrolled members of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota, to acquire trust interests in Tribal lands of the Reservation, and for other purposes, was introduced and passed in the United States Senate, and

WHEREAS, S. 1528 came on for hearing by the Sub-committee of Interior and Insular Affairs on April 25, 1956, and

WHEREAS, official delegates of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation were asked to and did testify before said Committee in support of S. 1528, and

WHEREAS, as a result of said hearing, the sub-committee requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior, to amend said Act to allow the individual Indian to purchase said lands from the Three Affiliated Tribes in trust or patent fee at the discretion of the individual Indian, and

WHEREAS, the said Bureau did amend said bill by deleting the word "Indian" from line 4, page 2 and adding the following language, "unless the Secretary determines that the Indian is competent to manage his own affairs, in which event unrestricted title shall be taken in the name of the Indian. Any trust created pursuant to this Act may be terminated by the conveyance of an unrestricted title whenever the Secretary decides that the trust is no longer needed for the protection of the Indian," and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council has duly considered the said amendment and all its ramifications;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION, NEW TOWN, NORTH DAKOTA, That the said Tribal Business Council does not favor said amendment because it confers upon the Secretary unlimited authority to declare any Indian competent whenever he should desire; That it deprives the Tribal Council of the right to manage the sale of said lands to the members thereof; That said amendment goes beyond the scope of the original Act in that, even though the land is purchased in trust, the Secretary has the authority to terminate said trust, as well as other lands the Indian might own or hold in trust, whenever he should see fit; That passage of said Act as amended would destroy the very purpose of the Act and seriously prevent and retard the completion of farming and ranching units.

Dated this 4th day of May, 1956.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 10 members, of whom 9 constituting a quorum were present at a special meeting thereof, duly called, noticed, convened and held on the 4th day of May, 1956; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 8 members, 0 members passed, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. Chairman not voting.

Dated this 4th day of May, 1956.

  
Samuel B. Matthews, Secretary of the  
Tribal Business Council of the Three  
Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold  
Reservation

ATTEST:

  
Martin Cross, Chairman, Tribal  
Business Council

~~RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;~~

~~R. B. McKee, Superintendent  
Fort Berthold Agency, New Town, N.D.~~

Signed: May, \_\_\_\_\_, 1956.