



9-19-1945

Letter from Representative William Lemke to Representative Usher Burdick Regarding Garrison Dam Pool Level, September 19, 1945

William Lemke
US Representative

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WILLIAM LEMKE
AT LARGE
NORTH DAKOTA

W. O. SKEELS
SECRETARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

September 19, 1945

COMMITTEES:
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HOME ADDRESS:
FARGO, N. DAK.

Hon. Usher L. Burdick
Williston, North Dakota

Dear Usher:

Received your telegram and did not answer before because I was waiting to get some information as to when the appropriation for the Missouri River project would come up.

Taber and Stefan tell me that it won't be much before November 1. They also tell me that a provision could be put in that no part of the money could be used to build the dam over 1830 feet if the committee was satisfied that that was the proper thing to do.

I may state that I talked with the Army Engineers and the engineers of the Bureau of Reclamation. They tell me that the agreement at Omaha was that while the dam was to be built at 1850 feet, the water level should be kept down to 1830 and would not be raised over that if Engineer Sloan's calculations were right, and if we could get enough water to fill Devils Lake via canals through Crosby, Kenmare, etc.

However, in case that this plan fails, they feel that then they should be in a position to raise the water higher than 1830 feet, and even up to 1850 if necessary, but they again assure me that it would never be necessary to raise it much over 1835 or 1840 to make it favorable to pump the water from Garrison to a canal for Sheyenne River, Devils Lake, etc. I am giving you this for your own information.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

