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Letter from Glenn Emmons to Representative Burdick Regarding Ranching Hardships Experienced by Ripley Family, May 17, 1956

Glenn Emmons

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Credit

MAY 17 1956

Hon. Usher L. Burdick
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Burdick:

You were furnished copy of a letter from Mr. Jackson Ripley, Emmet, North Dakota, to Secretary D'Ewart of March 26. For your information a representative of the Aberdeen Area Office visited the Ripley ranch and has looked into the matter discussed in Mr. Ripley's letter.

The Ripley family consists of Mr. Ripley, a sister, mother, and two children. The family moved to their present home in March 1955, and operate a unit of approximately 1600 acres. The range generally, is reported to have been badly overgrazed.


The family is reported to have owned approximately 200 head of cattle of all ages in the fall of 1955. Mr. Ripley reports that the family holdings have been reduced to about 80 head.

The family received eight loans from the tribe from 1949 through 1954 and is still indebted to the tribe for a substantial sum. An additional feed and seed loan of \$1,000 was made in February of this year to help avoid further livestock losses. From 1951 through 1955 the family received more than \$40,000 in per capita and other payments through the agency. As nearly as can be ascertained, their income in 1955 was over \$9,000.

Abnormal livestock losses were suffered during the past winter. Crowded barn conditions and lack of feed and water were responsible for the losses. The family's facilities for caring for livestock on the open prairie are inadequate, consisting of a barn which will house approximately 20 head of livestock and a board wind-break with no top. The latter is located below a small rise and when the snow falls and the wind blows, serves as a snow catcher. Constant use of the barn and shed with little cleaning had caused manure to accumulate to a depth of from two to three feet at the time of the visit of the representative of the Aberdeen Office. One had to stoop when entering the barn. Water was furnished by two wells, one located near the house, and one approximately half a mile from the farmstead. The latter furnishes the most water. Better management on the part of the operator apparently would have reduced the losses considerably.

A copy of Mr. Ripley's letter has been furnished the Superintendent of the Fort Berthold Agency, and he is being instructed to do everything possible to assist this family.

Sincerely yours,



Ernest J. Cannon
Commissioner