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**Letter from Theodore Bolman to Representative Burdick
Enclosing American Legion Post 271 Resolution to the Three
Affiliated Tribes Tribal Council, April 10, 1957**

Theodore Bolman

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A M E R I C A N L E G I O N

THOMAS F. BADGUN POST 271

Mandaree, North Dakota

Theodore Bolman, Commander

Oscar Burr, Adjutant

Leland Hall, Sergeant at Arms

10 April 1957

Hon. Usher L. Burdick
House Office Bldg.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Burdick:

We are sending you herewith a copy of recent resolutions that we presented to our Tribal Council. We are sure that you are interested enough in our problems to study these resolutions. They will show you some of our problems and thinking. We very much hope that you will help solve some of these problems through action in the United States Congress.

You may be interested to know that these resolutions were also presented to the Governor of North Dakota in a special audience that he granted to three of our American Legion Post leaders. The Governor was quite favorable and encouraging to us.

We very much appreciate all that you have done for us Indians in the past; and we thank you for your interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore Bolman
Theodore Bolman, Commander.

A M E R I C A N L E G I O N

THOMAS F. BADGUN POST 271

Mandaree, North Dakota

Theodore Bolman, Commander

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RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIAL TO THE TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the
THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has announced that its basic aims are to create conditions that will help Indians advance and adjust socially, economically, and politically until they reach a status comparable to that of average Americans; and to help Indians gain an increasing measure of self-sufficiency.

But in spite of these stated aims the fact is that we on Fort Berthold Reservation have not seen any improvement in health, housing, and standard of living. In fact we are in a more destitute and desperate situation now than we were before we were relocated out of the Missouri Valley.

The United States sends great sums of money to foreign countries for military and economic aid. We feel that some funds should be spent to aid us who have fought for and supported our country, and yet who remain in great need.

Our American Legion Post feels an obligation to try to help our whole community. We are not speaking for our own selfish benefit, but for the whole Reservation.

Therefore we present the following resolutions and requests; and we very strongly urge our Tribal Council to do everything in their power to put these resolutions into effect and grant these requests without further delay.

RESOLUTIONS: 1a. CREDIT

WHEREAS our Tribal Council reported in January that the Bureau has promised to throw out any regulations and rules that hinder the progress of Indians; and whereas we understand that there is a fund of about \$7,800,000 appropriated by Congress as a revolving credit fund for Indians which is not being used at all;

THEREFORE we resolve and request that

- (1) agricultural credit be more freely granted to ranchers, not requiring our loan applicants to be refused by banks and Farmers Home Administration before being considered by Tribal Council and Indian Bureau; and that
- (2) large enough loans be granted to give 200 cows bases to ranchers plus working and living capital; and that
- (3) the period of loan repayment be extended to 25 years for livestock loans, and to 40 years for land loans; and that
- (4) loans be granted freely against future per capita payments which have already been appropriated by Congress; and that
- (5) loans be granted freely to veterans for any productive purpose against the "G.I." guarantee of loans to veterans; and that
- (6) procedures be simplified to cut out delays and red tape in granting loans.

1b. CREDIT

WHEREAS the American Legion of Thomas F. Badgun Post 271 adopted this following resolution in support of our people's benefit; and

2. Am. Legion Resolutions

whereas we recognize the possible need of credit facilities to finance our livestock producers in this present emergency; and
since our money is held up;

WE URGE through our Council members that we could get loans through other loaning agencies under the strength of this Per Capita issue to purchase livestock and other ranch operating expenses; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the American Legion Post 271 through the recommendation from our Western Segment members do hereby request the Tribal Council to do everything possible to secure the passage and approval of this request.

2. CHILDREN'S FUNDS

WHEREAS there are many good ranchers who have not been able to get sufficient credit; and
whereas most of these ranchers have children with money in the hands of the U.S. Government;

THEREFORE we request and resolve that

- (1) tribal members be permitted to use their children's funds for family productive enterprises such as ranching; and that
- (2) tribal members be permitted to deposit their children's funds in credit unions, or savings banks, or other sound investments of their own choosing.

3. WELFARE

WHEREAS welfare clients now have no chance to better their situation;

THEREFORE we request that welfare clients be permitted to use their per capita payments as capital for constructive or productive enterprises; and that

- (2) the income payments for welfare clients be raised so that they may have a more decent living.

4. CATTLE and LEASES

WHEREAS there are a great many head of cattle continually being brought into the Reservation; and
whereas there is no complete system of checking or counting these cattle; and
whereas there is danger of overgrazing, and danger of spreading cattle diseases, and
danger of exploitation of needy Indian land owners;

THEREFORE we request the Tribal Council to persuade the Indian Bureau to employ several linemen or riders with police powers to count, and to demand certificates of inspection for diseases, and to order and enforce diseased or illegal cattle removed from the Reservation; and

- (2) we request that no cattle be permitted on the Reservation except those bearing the registered brands of our landowners and land leasers; and
- (3) we request that Indians be given priority over non-Indians to cut hay anywhere on Indian land.

5. LAND AQUISITION

WHEREAS surveys have shown that there is not enough land on the Reservation to provide adequate ranches for all our people;

THEREFORE we request that the Tribal Council use the Government funds appropriated for this purpose and acquire more land in order that we may have an adequate land base.

6. VETERINARIAN SERVICE

WHEREAS there is very little help in animal medicine available to ranchers in the

3. Am. Legion Resolutions

Western Segment; and
whereas some ranchers have lost great numbers of cattle;

THEREFORE we request the Tribal Council to seek a veteran eligible and willing for training under the GI Bill of Rights, and send him to study animal husbandry and medicine, promising to employ him after he has received training. And we request the Council to employ such a man as veterinarian for the Reservation.

7. CLAIMS

WHEREAS it is commonly recognized that the Indians have legitimate claims against the United States; and
whereas the present procedure for deciding and collecting such claims is very costly and complicated;

THEREFORE we support and commend the Tribal Council in its efforts to collect our claims. We urge that these efforts be continued and pressed forward without delay. We favor wise and conservative expenditures of Tribal funds for necessary scientific research in support of our claims.

8. AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

WHEREAS we feel that a survey of the resources of Fort Berthold Reservation with recommendations for their full utilization and development would benefit the Tribes very much;

THEREFORE we support and commend the Tribal Council in their efforts to get the Doane Agricultural Service to make such a survey.

9. "LANGER BILL"

WHEREAS the "Langer Bill", S. 809, would make possible the financing of industries and other economically beneficial enterprises on and near the Reservation;

THEREFORE we support and commend the Tribal Council for their efforts to get the Langer Bill passed. We urge that everything possible be done to arouse support for the Bill, and to encourage Congressmen to vote for it.

Signed: Theodore Bolman Commander.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Thomas F. Badgun Post 271 in a meeting duly called and held this 26th day of March 1957 by a vote of 17 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Signed: Clara Burr Adjutant.