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## Williston Herald Article Regarding US Representative Burdick's Resolution to Build New Water Treatment Plan in Williston, ND, May 8, 1956

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MAY 8

# Burdick Offers Bill To Build Water Plant

## Would Authorize Expenditure Up To \$2,200,000

The Williston City Commission looked more hopefully today towards final settlement of their new water system facilities needs with the federal government through legislation introduced in Congress by Rep. Usher L. Burdick.

The measure, designated as HR 10990, would authorize expenditure up to \$2,200,000 to "compensate for acquisition by the Corps of Army Engineers of, and to replace the municipal water supply and water treatment facilities . . . which will be damaged, impaired and rendered inoperative by construction and operation of the Garrison dam and reservoir."

The bill would modify the 1944 Flood Control Act, which originally provided authorization for development of all major projects within the Missouri Basin, including of course Garrison dam.

A. J. Thomas, acting president of the City Commission in the absence of Mayor Walter O. Burk, said today "certainly this is a move in the right direction." He added that negotiations which the city had been conducting with the Army Engineers the past several years had been "slow and tedious," and many times "mighty discouraging," but now, he added, "it appears that, assured of cooperation of other organizations and cities in the state, we might be on the road to a satisfactory settlement."

The Army Engineers have in conferences with the City Commission indicated a figure of some \$687,000 which they estimated as "damages" from the reservoir. The city, on the other hand, has consistently refused to accept any such offer, contending complete replacement of both the water treatment plant and sewage disposal system which would meet the needs of the community would cost nearer to two million dollars.

Hearings on Burdick's bill are anticipated in the near future by the Committee on Public Works when witnesses from Williston will go to Washington to testify in support of the legislation. Senator Wm. Langer has said he expects to introduce similar legislation in the U. S. Senate, and the entire Congressional delegation from the state has indicated full support for the proposals.

Such legislation of course carries no appropriation, and should it get approval by the Congress, then it would be necessary to secure the funds through regular appropriation measures to meet the cost of building the new facilities.

Thomas said that undoubtedly a conference would be called very soon of the commission and the advisory committee of five men which it had recently asked to work in conjunction with the official board in solving the water negotiations problem. "We must get our thinking united on all details," he said, "then be prepared to go to Washington and help our Congressional group in seeking adequate relief."