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Letter from Senator Langer to Floyd Montlcair Regarding Per Capita Payments to the Fort Berthold Indians, September 11, 1946

William Langer

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September 11, 1916

Hon. Floyd Montclair
Elbowoods, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Montclair:

I have your letter of August 27 with reference to the distribution of the four hundred thousand dollars awarded to the Fort Berthold Indians. The Interior Appropriation Bill (Public Law 478) on page 12 provides for the appropriation of four hundred thousand dollars to the Fort Berthold Indians. This sum in accordance with said Act is to be appropriated in accordance with the provision of HR 1095 (Public Law 467), which law provides that the amount appropriated shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Fort Berthold Indians. The money is there now, but there is no provision by law at the present time which would authorize a distribution of this amount in per capita payments, and it requires an Act of Congress to make such per capita payment. I shall be glad to introduce a bill in the next session providing that a distribution of this sum be made by per capita.

As you have requested I am enclosing copies of Public Laws 467 and 478 of the 79th Congress, also Public Law 113 of the 77th Congress, which is the Act of July 1, 1911.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

WL df

[PUBLIC LAW 467—79TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 515—2D SESSION]

[H. R. 1095]

AN ACT

For the relief of the Indians of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000 in full and final settlement of all claims and demands of the Indians of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, composed of the Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans, which claims are based upon stipulations of an unratified treaty dated July 27, 1866 (Kappler's Laws and Treaties, vol. 2, p. 1052): *Provided*, That the amount when appropriated shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Indians of the Fort Berthold Reservation and shall draw interest in accordance with existing laws: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 5 per centum of the amount herein authorized may be used by the Secretary of the Interior for payment of fees and expenses of attorneys employed under contract approved in accordance with existing law.

Approved June 28, 1946.