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Letter from Representative Burdick to Lillie Wolf Regarding Garrison Dam Relocations, March 23, 1956

Usher L. Burdick
United States House of Representatives

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March 23, 1956

Mrs. Lillie Eaton Wolf
Raub, North Dakota

Dear Mrs. Wolf:

When Frank Heart, Ben Youngbird, Carl Whitman and John Wilkerson were down here we had several conferences about the matters you discuss in your letters. I talked to Mr. Wesley D'Ewart, Assistant Secretary in the Department of Interior, and he is in favor of giving the Indians a per capita payment of \$200 now, so they can get their crops in.

I have heard a good deal of opposition to S. 2151, which has passed the Senate, and I believe that it will take too long a time to make up the membership roll and get the approval of the Secretary to do them any good at crop-planting time.

You know that I have always done all I could to help the Indians, and have always tried to be fair in just in all things that concern their welfare. You may be sure that I shall continue to do this. I know how hard it was for your all to lose the rich land in the river bottom, and be relocated on the hills, where it is much harder to make a living, and that no amount of money the government could give you would make up for it. I am sorry for this, but now that the dam has been built, there is no way to keep them from flooding out the low land.

Thank you for writing me as you have done, and please remember that I want to do all I can to help you.

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick, M.C.