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Letter from Representative Burdick to Mrs. A. N. Winge Regarding Inadequate Rental Payments, January 31, 1951

Usher L. Burdick

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January 31, 1951

Mrs. A. N. Winge
Van Hook, North Dakota

Dear Mrs. Winge:

It is too bad that many of you people who have owned homes at Van Hook and Sanish are going to be forced to leave them because of the building of the Garrison Dam. However, progress and benefit to the many always demands sacrifices from the few, and a period of difficult adjustment always ensues.

From a very careful reading and check of the clippings you sent, I failed to find any mention of inadequate rentals being paid. If you can give me concrete examples of this, together with actual facts and figures, I'll be glad to look into it.

From what I can gather from the clippings you sent me, it appears that the people who have taken their cases to the United States District Court have secured fair prices for their holdings, when they felt dissatisfied with the prices offered by the negotiators or land buyers. There may have been instances where misrepresentations have been made in order to get signatures to options, and if you can give me facts, dates and figures to show conclusively that the Army Engineers have resorted to these tactics, I should like to have them.

I shall be glad to talk with Ralph when he comes in, and I'm sure he will be able to give me some interesting slants on the situation you are facing.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Usher L. Burdick