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Letter from Walter Maddock to Cal Ward Regarding FHA Loans to Fort Berthold Families Effected by the Garrison Dam, February 28, 1947

Walter Maddock

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Langer

Indians

file

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FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION
Bismarck, North Dakota
February 28, 1947

WJM

To: Cal A. Ward, Regional Director
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

From: Walter J. Maddock, State FHA Director

Subject: Service to Indians.

On February 17th according to previous arrangement and at the request of Mr. Ben Reifel, Superintendent of Fort Berhold Indian Agency, and others a meeting was held in our office regarding the resumption of loans with this agency on the reservation.

We are enclosing herewith a copy of the record of that meeting. You will notice that we have tentatively agreed to a further meeting at Fort Berthold at some future date, providing that there is some opportunity of resumption of loan as outlined.

We would very much appreciate your advise in this matter.

Encl.

FILED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

~~FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION~~

Farmers Home Administration

Bismarck, North Dakota

February 17, 1947

The following are notes taken at a joint meeting between Representatives of the Fort Berthold Indian Agency and the Farmers Home Administration.

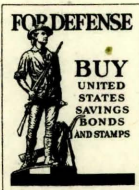
Attending from the Fort Berthold Indian Agency were: Ben Reifel, Superintendent of Ft. Berthold Agency; Elmer Gahley, Agr. Ext. Agent; George Gillette, Chairman of the Council; James Hall, Sr. member of Council. Attending for FHA were: Walter J. Maddock, State FHA Director, A. Q. Stine, District FHA Supervisor, O. Leonard Orvedal, District FHA Supervisor, and Maruice Switzer, County Interim FHA Supervisor.

Superintendent Reifel outlined to the group the purpose of the meeting. He stated that there were between 30 and 40 Indian families living on the reservation who needed loans. He further stated that the Indian Agency itself did not have funds available to assist these families. It was brought out in the discussion that the average loan would probably be in the neighborhood of \$3500.

Mr. Gahley, Extension Agent on the reservation stated that each family should have between 35 and 50 head of heifers and cows in order to make a go of it in livestock. He stated that there was sufficient grazing land available which is allotted to Indians. It was further brought out in the discussion that over half of the families needing loans are returned veterans.

The past experience in making loans to Indians on the reservation was discussed and neither agency appeared to be too proud of their accomplishments. Mr. Reifel requested that FHA establish a sub-office at Elbowoods. Mr. Maddock stated that he could not make any determination concerning this matter at this time but that he would discuss the matter with our Regional Administrative Officials.

Some of the details which would have to be looked into, providing loans were again made on the reservation, were discussed. The



following was pretty well agreed upon:

1. Applications must have the approval of the Superintendent of the agency and by the Tribal Council Committee.
2. Land resources to be approved for the applicant by the Superintendent of the Agency.
3. Agency to assist with the supervision and guidance of FHA Borrowers located on the reservation.
4. Bulls to be furnished by the Stockmans Association on a fee basis to be charged each borrower for the services.
5. The ID brand to be placed on all livestock purchased with FHA funds.
6. The applicant must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere in order to be eligible, as well as agree to FHA regulations.

It was agreed before adjournment, if the FHA were to make loans on the reservation that a further meeting would be held at Elbowoods where State Director Maddock, District FHA Supervisors, A. Q. Stine, and O. Leonard Orvedal, and County Supervisors at McLean, Mercer, and Dunn Counties would be in attendance.