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Letter from Senator Langer to General Lewis Pick Regarding Discrimination at the Garrison Dam Project, May 25, 1950

William Langer

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May 25, 1950

Major General Lewis A. Pick
Chief of Engineers
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Pick:

I have received a letter from Mrs. R. D. Kollman, Douglas, North Dakota, concerning employment at the Garrison Dam project. Her letter reads in part as follows:

"I would like to know if it is within your power to see that the discrimination that is being carried on at the Garrison Dam project among the labors is abolished. Workers come into this state from other states and get employment at once whereas a N. D. resident can go to the employment office day after day and receive the same answer "no opening at present" when these local men had their application in long before work ever stated this spring and still cant get an assignment for work, but there is no trouble for an outsider to get employment he gets it at once, no outsider gets turned away with "no opening at present" like the local men get slapped in the face with. I see no use of these families to remain on relief or unemployment compensation list when work is available, all kinds of it. I hope you will use all your influence of power in doing away with all this unjustly uncalled for discrimination.

"It is evidently plain that if the Taft-Hartley law was put into operation and used as it should be and was intended to be there'd be less discrimination as to who were selected or hired for the work on the Dam. Most of the N. D. residents are not members of any labor union but other states have more labor union members therefore they are of course the choice and are naturally hired first and are all they do hire as the labor union gangster organizers are standing right there with his "club" to get every worker as soon as he gets an assignment to go to work, to see if the worker is a card carrying labor union members. If he is not he has to sign up at once to become a member within 30 days and if refuses to sign a pledge to become a labor union member he loses his job assignment right there, if he does promise to become a union member and he fails to at end of 30 days he gets his "walking papers", all the workers I know that was employed last year that would not join the union can not get employment this year at all. Now just tell me why? Well you know as well as I do that the contractor has his orders from the union leaders not to hire these men, and

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Major General Lewis A. Pick

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May 25, 1950

you know that this same practice was carried on by the labor union slave tactics for many years making the labors slaves to the labor unions, most of these powers of slave driving was given to them by F. D. Roosevelt, and through these slave tactics brought on the Taft-Hartley law, which you also know is the reason the Taft-Hartley law is on our statute books today, and it should remain there. If you were a common laborer and got kicked around like a good many of these laborers are today and for many years passed, you would ask for a stiffer law than the Taft-Hartley law is today for your own benefit."

This is being forwarded to you for your attention and consideration. May I have your advice on this situation at your early convenience?

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

WL afg

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