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Letter from William Beyer to Senator Langer Regarding the Inauguration of a Food Stamp Plan for the Fort Berthold Reservation, April 8, 1941

William Beyer

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FIELD SERVICE

Fort Berthold Agency
Elbowoods, North Dakota
April 8, 1941

Honorable William Langer
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

This will acknowledge yours of the 3rd., instant, sending me a copy of letter you received from the Acting Administrator of Surplus Marketing Administration. This letter was read with much interest and I thank you for sending me the information contained therein.

On March ²¹~~25~~, 1941, the Indian superintendents of North Dakota reservations met in conference with S. M. A. officials and State Welfare representatives at Fargo, North Dakota. This conference was called for the purpose of discussing plans whereby it might be possible to inaugurate the stamp plan for issuing relief supplies on Indian reservations in this state. The decision arrived at in this conference was that for the time being it would not be practical to adopt entirely the stamp plan on Indian reservations, mainly for reasons mentioned in Mr. Maguire's letter to you. Surplus commodities must still be issued for noonday lunches in the schools in the state, and it is thought the stamp plan cannot be issued for noonday lunch commodities.

The Fort Berthold reservation includes parts of five different counties and all of these counties are not yet under the stamp plan. This is another reason why the stamp plan cannot be inaugurated immediately on this reservation.

I am of the opinion that when necessary relief funds are allotted for relief needs of Indian reservations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1941, the stamp plan can be put into effect soon afterwards. I realize your great interest in Indian matters and I am sure you will be interested in arranging for necessary relief appropriations for North Dakota Indians for the coming fiscal year.

Thanking you for your kind letter and with best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



W. R. Beyer
Superintendent