



1-31-1955

## Letter from Senator Langer to Carlyle Onsrud Regarding Medical Care for Fort Berthold Tribal Members, January 31, 1955

William Langer

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### Recommended Citation

Langer, William, "Letter from Senator Langer to Carlyle Onsrud Regarding Medical Care for Fort Berthold Tribal Members, January 31, 1955" (1955). *William Langer Papers*. 737.  
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COPY

January 31, 1955.

Honorable Carlyle Onsrud,  
Executive Director,  
North Dakota Public Welfare Board,  
Bismarck, North Dakota.

Dear Carlyle:

Enclosed are copies of the letters I have from  
Deputy Attorney General William Rogers and Acting Indian  
Commissioner Greenwood.

I would send you the originals but I am going to  
use them on the Senate Floor.

With kindness regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

encls.  
WL/asd

Department of Justice  
Office of the Deputy Attorney General  
Washington

January 25, 1955

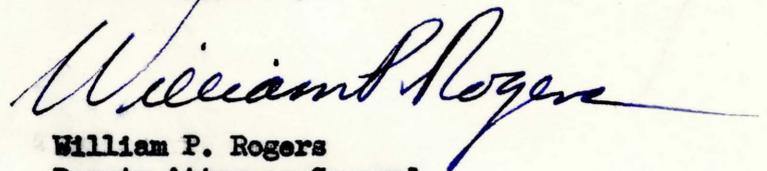
Honorable William Langer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Langer:

With your letter of January 18, 1955 you have sent me a copy of a telegram which you received from Mr. Carlyle Onsrud, Executive Director of the North Dakota Welfare Board, relative to hospitalization and medical care for Indians in North Dakota. This problem is one which I understand is being handled by the Department of the Interior in its administration over Indian affairs and for that reason I have taken the liberty of referring it to that Department for appropriate attention.

You will doubtless recall that when you asked me last Fall about having someone go with you to North Dakota to attend certain hearings involving the problems of Indians in North Dakota, I arranged through the Department of the Interior for Mr. William Kastler to accompany you. Mr. Kastler is the Acting Assistant Solicitor, Indian Legal Activities. For this reason I am drawing to his personal attention this reference of your communication.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William P. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William P. Rogers  
Deputy Attorney General



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Health  
994-55

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 27 1955

Hon. William Langer  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Langer:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 18, enclosing copy of a telegram dated January 14, 1955, addressed to you by Carlyle D. Onsrud, Executive Director of the North Dakota Welfare Board, Bismarck, concerning medical care for the Fort Berthold Indians at New Town, North Dakota.

The Bureau's responsibility for medical care of Indians, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 25, Indians, Parts 84 and 85, is limited to enrolled members of recognized Indian tribes residing on Indian reservation lands who are unable to provide such needs from their own resources. Expenditure of appropriated funds for health purposes is likewise limited for care of eligible indigent Indians.

The Bureau receives an annual appropriation from Congress for health purposes. Apportionments are made, within the limit of these appropriated funds, to the several area offices for allocation to the Indian agencies within their jurisdictions. No reserve funds are retained in the Central Office. Field officers are prohibited by law from obligating or expending funds apportioned to them in any one fiscal year in excess of the amounts so apportioned. In order to avoid any over-obligation of funds, field officers are required to issue prior authorizations covering medical care of eligible indigent Indians in non-Bureau facilities, or early confirming authorizations where emergency care is involved. Bureau facilities must be utilized in all cases where possible and only in emergencies when patients cannot be transported to a Bureau hospital or its facilities are inadequate are authorizations issued for non-Bureau care.

The health program of the entire Aberdeen Area is receiving detailed study in order that determination may be made of the Bureau's obligations at Fort Berthold and the other Indian agencies in the Area and what financial adjustments are possible to meet existing responsibilities.

We would like to assure you that the Bureau is willing and anxious to provide needed medical services to all eligible indigent Indians. Thank you for your interest in the health and welfare of the Indians.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Barton Greenwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

 Commissioner