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## Letter from Dorothy Gwinn for Senator Langer to Martin Fox Enclosing Report from the US Bureau of Indian Affairs Regarding Concern about the Tribal Council, May 12, 1952

Dorothy Ford Gwinn  
*Office of United States Senator William Langer*

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Fort Berthold Reservation

COPY

(per diem payment for  
1952 delegates)

May 12, 1952

Hon. Martin Fox  
Fort Berthold Indian Agency  
Elbowoods, North Dakota

CR - Spotted Bear, Justin  
CR - Cross, Martin

Dear Mr. Fox:

Before leaving for North Dakota, Senator Langer asked that we forward the report he received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in response to his inquiry concerning the payment of \$20 per day to tribal delegates when they are in Washington.

It is a pleasure to be of help to you during the Senator's absence and we hope you will keep in touch with him and let him know whenever you feel he can be of some help to you down here.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Dorothy Ford Gwinn,  
Secretarial Assistant to  
Senator Langer.

DFG:ju





IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Programs

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

Hon. William Langer

United States Senate

APR 22 1952

My dear Senator Langer:

Reference is made to your letter of March 28 with which you transmitted a telegram received by you from Mr. Justin Spotted Bear, Halliday, North Dakota.

Mr. Spotted Bear charges that the delegates from the Fort Berthold Reservation proceeded to Washington without the authority of the Tribal Council or the approval of the Aberdeen Area Office. Also, he registers objection to the expenditure of tribal funds for the payment of \$20 per day to tribal delegates when they are in Washington.

The delegates were chosen by the Fort Berthold Tribal Business Council which is the elected governing body of the three tribes of the reservation. It is possible, in view of bad weather conditions, that not all of the councilmen were present when the delegates were selected.

The Area Director at Aberdeen, South Dakota, was fully aware that the Fort Berthold Tribal Business Council was sending a delegation to Washington in support of the tribal program which it is developing for the rehabilitation of the members of the three tribes. In order that there might be maximum participation by the members of the tribes in formulating a program, numerous meetings have been held and are continuing to be held almost daily in communities on the reservation. This means is being taken to reach all the people to insure full participation of the membership in the development of an adequate tribal rehabilitation program and to insure activation of the program as finally approved. In addition, a news bulletin is published weekly and made available to every adult Indian on the reservation. Through these media, the membership of the reservation is being kept informed of all activities relating to the management of their tribal funds and property. Also, the radio station at Minot has a weekly program

wherein it broadcasts, in addition to the news of the surrounding communities, news items taken from the Fort Berthold Bulletin. Consequently, all members should be well informed regarding tribal affairs.

The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation have funds on deposit locally which are expended pursuant to provisions of the tribal constitution and charter. These funds are supplemented from tribal funds on deposit in the United States Treasury which are expended pursuant to authorization by Congress. Insofar as the funds on deposit in the United States Treasury are concerned, the delegates are allowed a per diem at not to exceed \$9 per day. In addition to this allowance, the Tribal Business Council has authorized from funds on deposit locally a salary of \$11 which totals \$20 a day to each delegate. Most of the delegates do not have a regular cash income, and expenses in a city such as Washington appear to necessitate the rate of pay authorized by the council.

The delegates have now returned to the Fort Berthold Reservation. It is my understanding that they plan to make a report to the tribal members covering the business transacted in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. S. Meyer".

Commissioner

Enclosure