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Letter from Wesley D'Ewart to Senator Langer Regarding US Senate Bill 2151, May 10, 1956

Wesley D'Ewart

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United States Department
of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, DC

May 10, 1956

My dear Senator Langer;

A day or two ago Mr. Chumbris of your office phoned asking for some information concerning the distribution of certain monies held in trust for the Fort Berthold Indians.

There is a bill, S. 2151, pending in Congress, which I understand, has the support of the Tribal Business Council and has been reported on favorably by this Department. In brief, under this bill the funds would be segregated and remain to the credit of individuals in the United States Treasury to draw interest at 4%. The segregated funds would be disbursed on the basis of an approved individual or family plan to be developed between representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the individual or family. The Tribal Business Council adopted a resolution on May 25, 1955, which prompted the introduction of S. 2151, that resolution did not provide for an additional per capita distribution of funds remaining in the United States Treasury to the credit of the tribes.

Mr. Carl Whitman, Jr., and others from the Fort Berthold Reservation discussed with me and others in the Department the possibility of a per capita payment of at least \$200. They were advised that such a request would have to be made by a resolution from the Tribal Council before we could even consider it. I might perhaps add that the making of such a per capita payment would not seem to be consistent with our endorsement of S. 2151.

Sincere yours,

s) Wesley A. D'Ewart
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. William Langer
USS
Washington 25, D. C.