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**Publication by By North Dakota State Water Commission  
Regarding Per Capita Payments, Strife Among Three Affiliated  
Tribes Members, August 17, 1950**

North Dakota Water Commission

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Indians

August 17, 1950

INDIAN FUNDS NOT  
SQUANDERED  
CHARIMAN CLAIMS

"Indian tribal funds have not been squandered," Carl Whitman, chairman of the three affiliated tribes of the Fort Berthold reservation, told a house public lands subcommittee.

His testimony also denied the charge of favoritism shown certain Indians on loans from the tribal revolving fund testified to the previous week by Martin Cross, former chairman, and other Indians.

Whitman opposed a bill by Rep. Usher Burdick to make certain per capital payments to members of the three affiliated tribes out of the \$12,605,625 appropriated by Congress to Indians who will be forced to move to make way for the reservoir.

Burdick's bill provides that any money left over from this sum after costs of removing the displaced Indians to other lands would be used to make per capita payments to all Indians involved.

Ralph Case, attorney for the tribe, also opposed the Burdick measure.

Burdick said "there are some dissatisfied Indians on the reservation. Some say they cannot get a loan from the revolving fund while other Indians can get loans." The revolving fund is owned jointly by all Indians.

James Hall, chairman of the tribal loan committee, said the loans were made on a business basis and no favoritism shown. He suggested the subcommittee send a delegation to the reservation to make its own check.

Ben Youngbird, a member of the loan committee, said if the per capital payments were made, the Indians would buy luxury goods. Only about one-third of the adult Indians on the reservation favors the Burdick bill, he said.

Chairman Morris said some type of legislation probably will be necessary as to distribution of tribal money. The committee, he added, will study the situation before taking action.

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