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Letter from Peggy Harris to Senator Langer Regarding Working Conditions on the Garrison Dam Project, November 14, 1948

Peggy Harris

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November 14, 1948

Senator William Langer
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I'm writing you in regards to the working conditions here at Garrison Dam Project - Riverdale, North Dakota. This is in regards to the Cafeteria Concession operated by the by the Rocket Catering Company. Their manin offices are in Chicago, Ill. on Dearborn Street. I came out here as a second cook at the rate of \$200.00 per month, board and room. Then they changed it to Board and \$200.00 per month and I would have to pay for my own room. Now I have put in not less than 10½ hours per day - 7 days per week - but often 12 hours per day. A lot more of the employees have put in even longer hours without any overtime in pay or any pay for the 7th. ~~Our~~ time was supposed to start from the day we arrived here which was the 25th of September. The conditions were so impossible here that I quit 2 days after we opened and went into Minot where I was employed. I quit the 3rd of September and was in Minot for two weeks and then they begged me to come back here and take charge of the kitchen at the rate of \$250.00 per month which I did. This time I've worked since the 17th of October. We are supposed to be paid the 1st of every month. This is the 14th of November and I was presented with my first check. I shall give you a complete list on another page. They were supposed to pay all our travelling expenses provided we stayed six months. I wish you to investigate these people very thoroughly. When I left I was given \$30.00 for 4½ days as follows;

Peggy Harris

September 25th to October Wages to Nov. 1st.

Rate 4½ days -	\$200.00 per month
Rate 13½ days -	\$250.00 per month
Earnings	\$142.43
Old Age Benefits	1.42
Room	9.33
Lincoln Empire Office	10.00
Advances	30.00
Transportation	<u>15.13</u>
	\$65.88
Net Pay	76.55

This is exactly as the listing I was given when I received my check. My check amounts to only \$76.55. No overtime or pay for

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seventh days. I sincerely hope you'll take prompt action.

Lt. Col. Beard is in command of this project here. If he will, he can tell you plenty.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mrs. Peggy C. Harris
Dormitory Hotel
Riverdale, North Dakota