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Letter from William E. Warne to Senator Langer Regarding Depredation by Horses from the Fort Berthold Reservation, Undated

William E. Warne
United States Department of the Interior

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Fort Berthold

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D.C

My dear Senator Langer:

Further reference is made to your letter of January 12, regarding a letter received by you from Mr. H. A. Rustad and Mr. Julius Mattson of Roseglen, North Dakota, protesting alleged damage to crops by wild horses belonging to Fort Berthold Indians.

An investigation has been made of this matter by the Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Aberdeen, South Dakota. He states that this trespass problem has been recognized by the Superintendent of the Fort Berthold Agency for a number of years. Efforts in the past by the Agency to clear up the situation have met with limited success in reducing the number of such horses. Recently the Superintendent initiated a series of meetings with the Indians to encourage disposition of the horses. The Indians indicated an increased awareness of the necessity of eliminating unproductive horses to clear up the trespass situation and to provide range for an expanding cattle program. As a result of the Indians' cooperation in the matter, on February 21 and 22 a total of 177 head of horses were sold. Since then an additional 50 head have been sold with additional smaller sales to be made. The Area Director states that these sales should lessen the trespass problem to a great extent. Further reductions of the horse population will be encouraged. With a view to obtaining the cooperation of all interested parties, representatives of the Area Director and the Superintendent discussed the matter with Mr. Julius Mattson. He recognized the difficulty of the problem and expressed a willingness to cooperate in the settlement thereof. It appears from the Area Director's report that the cooperative effort of the parties concerned will result in a satisfactory solution of the problem.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ William E. Warne
Assistant Secretary of the
Interior

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