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Letter from Eugene S. Leggett to Governor Langer Regarding Size of Resettlement Grants 1937

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Eugene S. Jagger
file

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

Relief
Federal

OFFICE OF
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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February 13, 1937.

The Honorable
William L. Langer,
Governor of North Dakota,
Bismarck, North Dakota.

My dear Governor Langer:

I refer to your telegram of February 6, which reads
as follows:

"CUMMINS AND I ARE AGREED AND HE WILL SO WIRE YOU
THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE TO RELIEVE SUFFERING THAT
RESETTLEMENT GRANT BE INCREASED TO THIRTY DOLLARS
PER MONTH EFFECTIVE THIS MONTH STOP AM WIRING YOU
PURSUANT TO OUR AGREEMENTS THAT YOU WOULD TAKE CARE
OF THIS FOR ME STOP WARMEST REGARDS"

and to my reply of February 8, reading as under:

"SUBJECT MATTER OF YOUR TELEGRAM FEBRUARY SIX HAS
BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS
OF RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION STOP I SHALL KEEP YOU
ADVISED OF ACTION STOP KIND REGARDS"

The Rehabilitation Division of the Resettlement Ad-
ministration, through the medium of grants, is contributing to
the maintenance of approximately 400,000 families in officially
designated drought areas of which North Dakota is a part.

In order to make an equitable distribution of the
limited funds available for grant purposes, the Resettlement
Administration cannot undertake to increase grants from an
average of about \$23 per family per month to an average of \$30
per family per month.

County Supervisors have a wide latitude in the matter
of determining the needs of drought stricken families in acute
cases, and, so long as the average is maintained, they may use
their discretion. In other words, there are many instances where

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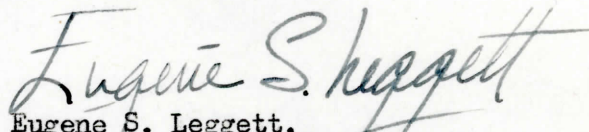
families, because of sickness or other acute distress, have received grants running all the way from \$23 to \$45, depending upon the degree of their needs as determined by the County Supervisor.

Of course, when certain families receive grants of as much as \$40, it means that the County Supervisor, because of the average permitted, must either cut off other families, or else substantially reduce their grants.

A blanket increase such as you propose would hasten the exhaustion of available funds, leaving little or nothing with which to alleviate suffering after the funds are gone. By adhering to the present average, it is thought that distressed families can be maintained for a reasonable period to come.

I will appreciate your further ideas on this subject.

Sincerely yours,


Eugene S. Leggett,
THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.