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Letter from James Martin to Representative Burdick Regarding Garrison Dam Pool Level and Proposed Land Sales, February 16, 1955

James F. Martin

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Box 9
Trenton, North Dakota
Feb. 16, 1955

Honorable Usher L. Burdick
U. S. Representative
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Burdick:

The land-owners of the East Valley of the Buford-Trenton Irrigation Project wish to go on record as being opposed to the high pool level of the Garrison reservoir, and the dikes that go with it.

We have met, and were 100 per cent in agreement to sell our holdings on a basis much like Lewis-Clark project has advanced to the Corp of Army Engineers and to our Senators and Representatives.

A board of appraisers were elected, and they have arrived at a price for all the land in the East Valley. These prices have been gone over with the land-owners and have been approved by them.

The total of these prices is about one-third the cost of the proposed dikes. Our prices will just about pay the cost of relocating to some place else. We land-owners feel the cost of the dikes plus the cost of maintenance are too high for the amount of land protected, and in spite of the Army's assurances, we do not feel they will give us adequate protection for our farms if we have the 1850 pool in the Garrison reservoir.

If Congress will buy our land at our price, and give the present owner the first right to lease back at a rental that the land would find a renter for it. Then we will sell. If not then, we will take the dikes.

We are very much interested in having the River erosion problem on our project taken care of. We wish to continue farming our places until we find a place to relocate, or until the pool level prohibits it. Thus, we are very much interested in keeping the irrigation project in operation. Especially so if the rest of the project is not purchased.

The rest of the project, according to information from the Army Engineers, will not be diked. If the other two Valleys were to be diked, even at a later date they would more than likely feel as we do.

If we have to have the high pool level and our plan for selling meets with your approval, we would like to know the procedure required to enact our plan.

We trust that we may have an early reply from you, I thank you

Yours truly,

James F. Martin
James F. Martin
BUFORD*TRENTON EAST VALLEY
land-owners

LAND-OWNERS
 RUFORD, TRENTON EAST VALLEY

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Dear Mr. Birdick, the prices of the dikes are too high for
 to have a reasonable price for our land.

Honorable Mr. L. Birdick
 U. S. Representative
 Washington, D. C.
 Trenton, North Dakota
 Box 9
 Sep. 10, 1952

to send to