

Ms. 4805 - Sol Tax - Fort Berthold Action Anthropology Project

Historical Summary

During the late 1940s, the Three Affiliated Tribes (Arikara, Hidatsa, and Mandan) on the Fort Berthold Reservation failed in an effort to prevent the federal government from taking over tribal lands for the construction of Garrison Dam and Reservoir. Certain private groups, led by Galen R. Weaver of the American Missionary Society, were concerned about the difficulties of forced resettlement faced by the Indians and formed a committee to consider what might be done to assist them. From this was arranged a grant from the American Missionary Society to the University of Chicago that would allow a study of the problem. Sol Tax served as director and students from the University of Chicago carried out the work.

During 1950, Robert S. Merrill spent several months at Fort Berthold and prepared a report that included recommendations. Another University of Chicago student, Robert Rietz, became a Bureau of Indian Affairs employee and stayed on at Fort Berthold as a community analyst. Other students involved in the project were Ethel Nurge, Brokaw, and Edward Bruner.

Scope and Content Note

The records include diaries, correspondence, census data, genealogies, economic and social data, folklore, linguistic texts, government publications, council publications, and newspapers.

Correspondents include Alfred W. Bowers, James E. Curry, Edward M. Bruner, Ben Riefel, Sol Tax, and Galen R. Weaver.

Inventory

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B: [2f] Publications of Religious Institutions, on American Indians in General

C: Conferences of Social Workers Which are Relevant to Fort Berthold

D: [4f] Indian Policy Intentions of the U.S. and State of North Dakota Governments

E: [3f] Reconnaissance – Concerning the Missouri River Basin Plans and the State of the Indians

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E: Reconnaissance – Concerning the Missouri River Basin Plans and the State of the Indians

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I: Resolutions and Announcements of the Tribal Business Council

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O: [3f] Tabular Data

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