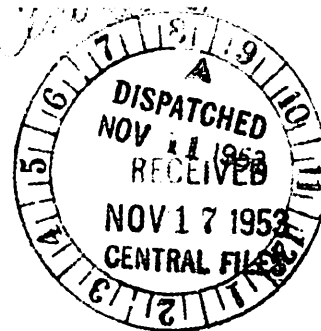


O.F.  
113-I

November 9, 1953



GERALD D. MORGAN

Dear Mr. Lucas:

I appreciate your letter about the drought situation in the country.

There is no question that extreme drought conditions have brought hardship to many farmers and ranchers. All of us in the Administration and in the Congress have been deeply concerned about it. That is why we have initiated the hay program, the low cost feed and seed programs, obtained a reduction in transportation charges into the drought areas, provided emergency credit for distressed farmers and ranchers, and asked the affected States also to participate actively in meeting agricultural needs. Everything that can practicably be done to help in this situation has been and is being carried through as promptly as possible.

A few weeks ago I conferred in Kansas City with the Governors of the drought-afflicted States. There the Governors also canvassed the drought problem with Secretary Benson, Federal Civil Defense Administrator Peterson, and Governor Adams, General Persons and others from my staff. The purpose of these meetings was to survey the numerous steps already taken by the Federal Government to meet this problem and to clarify both Federal and State activities for the future in regard to drought relief. It was my clear understanding that the arrangements agreed upon there had the cordial support and cooperation of most if not all of the Governors present.

I mention these matters not alone to underscore what has already been done and what is still being done. I want also to make it as clear to you as I can that we intend to keep on doing what needs to be done to alleviate the suffering of our farm people in the drought areas.

CROSS CARD FOR STAFF SECRETARY

XCF 106-A

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D.: Records as President (White House Central Files)  
Official File: Box 474  
Folder: OF 113-I Drought Disaster 1953 (4)

It is your suggestion, I note, that the Congress be reconvened in <sup>XOF99-F</sup> special session to deal further with the drought problem. As the situation now exists, the only occasion that, in my judgment, would warrant such emergency action would be the exhaustion of Federal funds to meet drought area needs between now and the time the Congress is to reconvene in regular session. If it develops that the funds are inadequate to meet the needs, I shall not hesitate to ask the Congress to reconvene to meet the situation.

It is my hope and expectation that with the Federal and the State Governments working at this serious problem on the basis of partnership, rather than on a basis of Federal domination and preemption, adequate remedial action will have been taken.

Thank you very much for writing to me about this important problem.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

<sup>X</sup>  
The Honorable Wingate Lucas  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D.: Records as President (White House Central Files)  
Official File: Box 474  
Folder: OF 113-I Drought Disaster 1953 (4)