

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

October 18, 1963

Dear :

I am pleased to be able to report that support for my bill, S. 1618, to construct a scenic road to connect the three units of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, is growing and that many of the earlier misunderstandings are being resolved.

This morning Secretary Udall passed along some very good news to me. He advised me that the Park Service, in conjunction with the Bureau of Public Roads, will make a reconnaissance survey of the area to be traversed by the scenic road. The survey work will begin October 25. In his letter to me, which is enclosed, you will note that the Secretary is interested in marking out a location for the road which will be "consistent with a minimum of interference to ranching in the area". I feel confident that the survey will allay many fears and quiet many rumors as to the actual location of the road.

For example, it has been stated that the road will follow the Little Missouri River and occupy only valley land. I am sure that the survey will discount such rumors. For the road to be scenic, must take maximum advantage of the canyon rims, interior bluffs and ravines which lie in large measures on federally-owned lands.

After the survey is made, we will have specific information upon which to proceed. I am very hopeful that we can then muster wide support for the project from the people of North Dakota. Without such support, the authorization of \$7 million for planning and construction will be difficult to secure.

You can be sure I will keep you informed of any further developments on this particular legislation.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Quentin N. Burdick

80-Mile Roosevelt Park Highway Sought

DICKINSON (AP) — The federal government is interested in building an 80-mile paved highway linking the north and south units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Gov. William L. Guy disclosed here.

Guy told the North Dakota Retail Gasoline Dealers Association convention he proposed the idea when he was in Washington last week.

He added both Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall and Conrad L. Wirth, National Park Service director, expressed interest in the \$5.5 million project.

The governor explained the

badlands road would form part of a tourist highway loop from Garrison dam, along the south and west shores of Garrison reservoir, through the Fort Berthold Indian reservation and to the park.

Udall was impressed with badlands scenery, said Guy, and the secretary suggested the park service install one of the few remaining herds of longhorn cattle on virgin prairies in the park's north unit.

A tourist loop highway would draw visitors to North Dakota from all over the country, the governor predicted. He added:

"Tourism in many states is the

stabilizing factor in those states' economies. We have hardly scratched the surface in our potential for tourism in North Dakota."

Guy told the gasoline dealers the state's new youth park corps, comprised of boys from the state industrial training school in Mandan, has begun renovation of the North Dakota park system.

"However, this is but a step in the direction of making our state park system more attractive to picnickers and campers," said the governor.

"Garrison reservoir and our other man-made lakes lie as potential untapped resort areas."

Mark Andrews of Mapleton, Republican candidate for governor, told the gasoline dealers they are "ambassadors of North Dakota."

There is no business as individualistic as operation of a service station, said Andrews, adding:

"You people are the greatest suppliers of tourist information and this is a booming industry in our state."

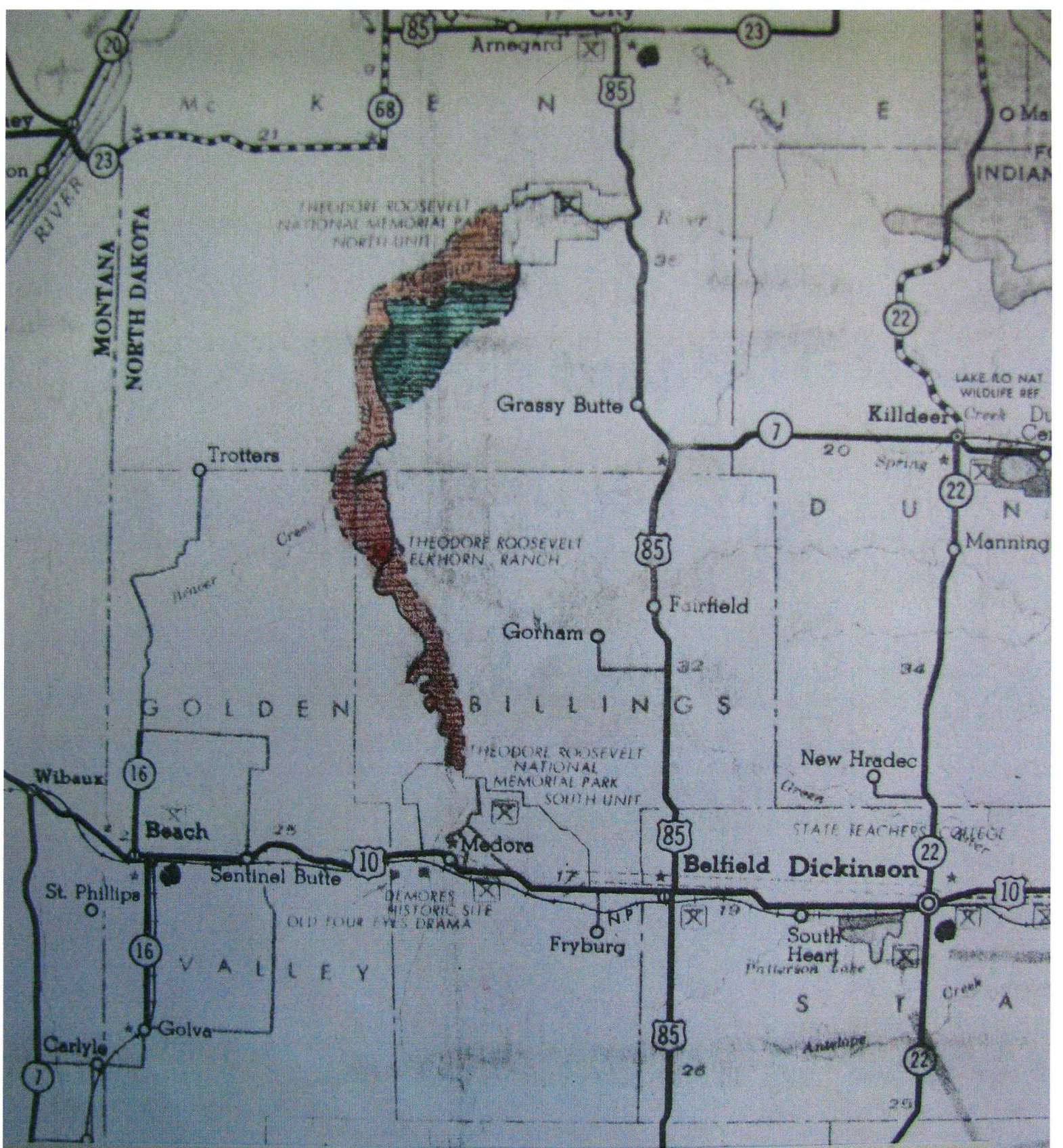
Andrews said tourists brought \$30 million into North Dakota last year. "This is a beautiful state, he said," but cautioned:

"It has a great deal to offer, but we must let the rest of the country know about it. We can-

not build a state by running it down."

John Dinsdale of Dickinson stepped up from the vice presidency to succeed Jim Sauvageau of Fargo as association president. Wally Kapaun of Fargo was named vice president, and James Marsden of Fargo was re-elected executive secretary.

New directors are Jim Nichol of Williston, Walt Busche of Oakes, Bill Munson of Jamestown, George Kostelecky of Mandan, Lyle Vaagen of Dickinson, Oscar Sorenson of Grafton, Willie Lystad of Bottineau, Tom Brennan of Devils Lake, and J. Cronin of Fargo.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARKWAY

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