



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

September 27, 2021

JOHN R. GREENEWALD JR.  
THE BLACK VAULT  
SUITE 1203  
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD  
CASTAIC, CA 91384-4520

FOIPA Request No.: 1358210-000  
Subject: WILLIAMS, MAURICE A

Dear John Greenewald:

You were previously advised we were consulting with another agency concerning information located as a result of your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request.

This consultation is complete and the enclosed material is being released to you with the appropriate exemption noted next to the redacted information pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section(s) 552/552a as noted below. Below you will find checked boxes under statute headings indicating the appropriate exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold the information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

Section 552

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ (b)(4)

☒ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

16 pages were reviewed and 16 pages are being released.

☐ The appropriate redactions were made by the \_\_\_\_\_.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or

electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.



See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

This is the final release of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

## FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

### Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

### Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

### Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit [www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records](http://www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records).
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks). Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at [www.edo.cjis.gov](http://www.edo.cjis.gov). For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

## **EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.


### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a**

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault

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The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages  
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

Complaint Form  
FD-71 (Rev. 8-29-74)

NOTE: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☐ See below

Subject's name and aliases

UNSUB(S); ALLEGED  
MISUSE OF BIA FUNDS  
BY CHEYENNE RIVER  
SIOUX TRIBAL AUTHORITIES,  
CHEYENNE RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION,  
EAGLE BUTTE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Character of case

DOT/  
FAG - (BIA)

Complaint received

☐ Personal ☐ Telephonic Date MAIL Time \_\_\_\_\_

Address of subject

Complainant's address and telephone number

|                          |                            |   |        |      |            |                           |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------|------|------------|---------------------------|
| Subject's<br>Description | Race                       | Sex<br><input type="checkbox"/> Male<br><input type="checkbox"/> Female | Height | Hair | Born       | Birth date and birthplace |
|                          | Age                        |   | Weight | Eyes | Complexion | Social Security Number    |
|                          | Scars, marks or other data |   |        |      |            |                           |

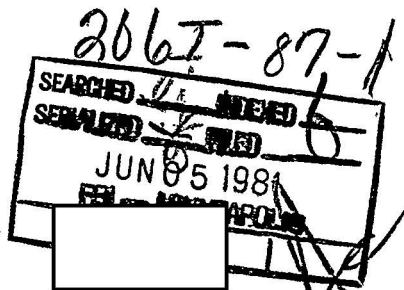
Facts of complaint

LETTER DATED 5/22/81 FROM & RECEIVED  
MAKING NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS PURPORTING  
MISUSE OF BIA FUNDS BY TRIBAL  
OFFICIALS.  
FENCING MATERIALS, RANGE LAND &  
BIA LOANS WERE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED.  
OAA NEW 206 I CASE  
TO WRITER.

Action Recommended

OAA TO

(Agent)



(PIERRE)

report to [redacted]

Feeding given to take to [redacted] needed for direct relief  
1. Oct 1, cows feed went of series 14 - 50 cows over capacity  
[redacted] found not in compliance.

3. Bled [redacted] talked with  
Wheeler concerning the problem  
~~and explained that~~ explained that  
the feed cattle grazing only  
for 5 months would allow  
him or her to in cattle ready  
to CRST grazing code. This  
would allow for 341 total or.

2. Found letter in [redacted]  
BIA cow app. miles of 19-88-80.  
Began to question if Wheeler  
had the many cows on his land.

4. Copy of letter to [redacted] 3/14/80  
from [redacted]

explaining Wheeler's grazing contract.

5. Say is satisfied with explanation  
because explanation of 5 month  
program was made after the fact  
rather than before the fact.

6. 5/1 - 9/31/79. Roy unit  
# 14.

7. <sup>263</sup> If cattle was on unit from  
that date. Miller would be  
rotating own equipment.

Only one feed went  
into in October of 1979 so  
there was no way of proving  
identity. Miller's feed equals  
cattle. If he ran one 48 cows  
in a year period of time <sup>you still</sup> would  
not be in complete.

b6  
b7C

Mud. Lot & Chumbers  
dinner [redacted] - [redacted]  
Miller -  
Kalamazoo -

[redacted]

Provided  
copies

FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

Field File No. 206 I - 87

OO and File No. MP

Date Received 7-10-87

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY AND STATE)

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Description:

INT. NOTES

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b7C

b6  
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1a1

7/10/81

b6  
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- Found ON FURN ROOM OF YELLOW CHAIRS  
BIA VEHICLE  
BUDDY OF MANNING

DEFENSIVE DRIVERS COUNCIL

\* [REDACTED] (PH) FOUND  
BIA MANS - CHAIRMAN AND  
LEAGUE BUTTE

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
EXHIB BUTTE  
[REDACTED] EXHIB BUTTE  
[REDACTED] MENTIONED LETTER  
FEB OF 1980  
SAW LETTER

APPENDIX

[REDACTED] 35 HEAD } PRO FOR

RUNNING FULLY ON UNIT #14

ARMED Full 294 [REDACTED] WAS  
TO CHECK MANNING.

RULES - PUT DOWN LAND HOLDERS  
WHERE RUNNING STOCK.  
- SPECIAL GROUND

- SAME BANN OPERATION SHOULD RECALL WHERE  
STOCK WAS PUT

REQUESTS TO WATER TRAILS

BIA EQUIP & MANN

LAND RECORDS INDIVID.

ATTEMPTED TO GET  
FARM PASTURE LEASE (NO SUCCESS)

DIRECTOR, FBI  
(ATTENTION: WHITE COLLAR CRIMES SECTION  
GOVERNMENTAL FRAUD UNIT)  
SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (206I-87) (P)

6/29/81

MAURICE A. WILLIAMS  
FAG - DOI (I)  
OO: MINNEAPOLIS

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM suitable for dissemination pertaining to allegations made concerning Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal authorities, Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

The original complaint by the [redacted] pertained to numerous violations; however, upon contact with AUSA, Pierre, South Dakota, only one allegation concerning the subject is being investigated.

b6  
b7C

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION

AT ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will contact [redacted] BIA, regarding his knowledge of subject and the fact that subject may have grazed cattle on deferred grazing program land.

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AT PHILIP, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will contact the [redacted] Livestock Exchange and conduct investigation in an attempt to determine subject's participation in alleged scheme.

b6  
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2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)  
3 - Minneapolis  
ACF:gms  
(5)

- 1\* -

*Lead to*  
[redacted]

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

206-87-3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 29, 1981

MAURICE A. WILLIAMS  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT -  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

A letter dated May 22, 1981, from [redacted]

[redacted], was received at the Pierre, South Dakota, Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Enclosed with this letter were numerous documents detailing possible irregularities in the conduct of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and tribal authorities on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

A document enclosed with this correspondence specifically listed eleven allegations including possible fraud in which fencing material was purchased for the tribe with BIA funds and was given out to tribal officials without proper publicity that the fencing material was available. This caused an inequity inasmuch as all tribal members did not have an opportunity to obtain the fencing. When the information was finally learned that the materials were offered by the BIA, they were no longer available.

Another allegation indicated that Mr. Maurice Williams, a BIA official, grazed cattle on range land for which he was receiving a BIA Deferred Grazing Program payment. Another allegation indicated that Mr. Williams received 10,000 trees from the BIA from a shelter belt program and used BIA water in planting them.

Other allegations indicated improper selling of equipment which was Federally funded and inequities in the Nutrition Program inasmuch as funds were commingled in the tribal central accounting system and lost their identity. Another allegation involved the lack of cash control and purchasing controlled by tribal Council members.

\*\*\*\*

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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MAURICE A. WILLIAMS  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT -  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

There are allegations concerning loans from a revolving fund 50 percent of which went to Tribal Council members and their close relatives, thereby, making loans unavailable to other tribal members.

Other allegations concerned the awarding of cable TV contracts and improprieties in the right-of-way system established on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation by the Tri County water authority. Other allegations concerned purchases of equipment from revenue sharing funds after the Tribal Council had turned down authorization to purchase this equipment.

On June 3, 1981, Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] Pierre, reviewed the documents received from [redacted] [redacted] advised that of the allegations made by [redacted]

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On June 22, 1981, [redacted] the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, detailed allegations concerning the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He advised that fencing materials worth \$30,000 were received by the BIA and allocated by a [redacted]. Evidently, no public notice was made to tribal members concerning the availability of the above fencing materials. [redacted] provided these fencing materials to tribal officials and BIA employees. [redacted] indicated that it was not the fact that tribal officials or BIA employees did not have the right to have these fencing materials, but it was the fact that there was no notice given to other tribal members that there was materials available and when it came time for distribution, the materials were already given out.

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[redacted] stated he has allegations concerning a Mr. Maurice Williams. He stated that Williams allegedly ran livestock on land on which he received a BIA deferred grazing grant under the BIA Deferred Grazing Program.

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MAURICE A. WILLIAMS  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT -  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

[ ] indicated that under this program, Williams was paid \$14,000. Under the condition of this payment, he was not to raise any cattle on the property. Williams, according to [ ] contracted in the Summer of 1979, with the [ ] to have 200 head of cattle graze on the deferred land.

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[ ] advised that a letter to the [ ] was found laying in a BIA vehicle driven by Williams indicating that the above information is valid.

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[ ] advised that under the BIA Revolving Fund Loan Program, all funds have been held up to individuals of the tribe since 50 percent of the loans have been made to Tribal Council members and their close relatives and no payments have been made.

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[ ] advised this is a political problem also inasmuch as the Council has failed to vote a resolution to have these loans paid as it is the Council who has the loans. Again, [ ] advised that it is probably not illegal that the Council members receive the loans, but it is highly improper that they should have the loans and not pay their payments and hold the other loan possibilities from tribal members.

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Following the interview with [ ] [ ] was contacted on June 22, 1981, and advised of the results of the interview. [ ] advised that the only allegation that may have merit concerns Mr. Maurice Williams who, allegedly, received \$14,000 for participating in a BIA Deferred Grazing Program. While participating in this program, Williams allegedly grazed cattle on the same land in which he received a deferment and received funds for this grazing.

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[ ]  
Aberdeen, South Dakota, came into possession of a letter which was found in a BIA truck driven by Maurice Williams. This letter to [ ] of the [ ] allegedly indicates a transaction where Williams had cattle on lands that were part of the Deferred Grazing Program.

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Investigation of this matter is continuing.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 7-21-81

[redacted]  
[redacted] Aberdeen, South Dakota, was located and interviewed at his office in the Federal Building. He was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as Special Agent [redacted] and that the purpose of the interview was in regards to the BIA deferred grazing program and possible fraud by Maurice A. Williams. [redacted] furnished the following information:

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[redacted] advised that in February, 1980, he was in the Land Operations Office at Eagle Butte, South Dakota, where [redacted] mentioned that [redacted] found a copy of a letter on the floor of [redacted] BIA vehicle during a defensive drivers class at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

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[redacted] stated that [redacted] told him that the letter was from Maurice Williams and written to the [redacted] South Dakota, Livestock Commission. [redacted] stated that he wanted to see the letter and [redacted] got it from [redacted] desk in the Land Operations Office and gave it to him.

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[redacted] advised that Maurice Williams and [redacted] are extremely close associates and work together on almost everything. Further, that [redacted] is aware of most everything Williams does.

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[redacted] advised that [redacted] South Dakota, should be in possession of the original deferred grazing program application and other papers filed by Williams in regards to his involvement in the program.

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He indicated that he feels Williams was running unit 14 to capacity (254 head of cattle) and also applied for the deferred grazing money on approximately 35 head of cattle in 1979. He stated that the program calls for \$66 per head on allotted land and \$28 per head on Tribal land.

Interviewed on 7-10-81 at Aberdeen, South Dakota File # Minneapolis 2061-87-4

by SA [redacted] :kaf Date dictated 7-16-81

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[ ] felt that Williams probably did not fill out his application as to specifics in regards to his land holdings and areas designated for stock grazing (he indicated that the [ ] Livestock Commission should be able to advise as to where the cattle were grazing).

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[ ] advised that [ ] was responsible for checking on the units and to be sure the land was utilized in accordance with the requirements of the deferred grazing program. If this were true, he would have know that Williams was not following the requirements.

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[ ] advised that in 1979, [ ] attempted to get him [ ] to change unit 14 from the deferred grazing program to the farm pasture lease program which he denied. He feels that this was done as the farm pasture lease program does not require an audit of the numbers of cattle grazing on a particular unit area.

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# Memorandum



To : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (206I-87)  
(ATTN: SA [redacted])

Date 7-20-81

b6  
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From : SA [redacted]  
PIERRE RA)

Subject : MAURICE A. WILLIAMS;  
FAG - DOI (I)  
OO: MINNEAPOLIS

Re Minneapolis airtel with LHM to Bureau dated  
6-29-81.

Attached is an FD-302 reflecting interview with  
[redacted] at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

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For information, [redacted] is extremely knowledgeable  
in regards to the Deferred Grazing Program and captioned  
individual. He feels that [redacted]  
[redacted] and indicated that [redacted] is many times the  
[redacted] in cattle purchases wherein the Indian owner  
must have 50 percent ownership of cattle grazing on the  
land.

It is suggested that the case Agent may want to  
debrief [redacted] himself, in order to obtain further  
knowledge of possible fraud on the Cheyenne River Indian  
Reservation.

②③ - Minneapolis  
HAM:kaf  
(3) [signature]

1\*

206I-87-5

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED          | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED        | FILED   |
| JUL 21 1981       |         |
| FBI - MINNEAPOLIS |         |

[signature]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 6, 1981

[redacted]  
[redacted] Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the matter to be discussed concerning information he may have regarding the Grazing Land Deferment Program and how it relates to Maurice Williams and then [redacted] provided the following information:

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[redacted] advised he reports [redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] advised that the Grazing Land Deferment Program is a program set up by the Federal Government and administered by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. It is a program whereby monetary incentives are given to ranchers to keep their cattle off of grazing lands. In connection with this program, on October 1, 1979, he made a head count of unit 14 belonging to Maurice Williams. At the time Williams had 50 cows over capacity and wrote a memorandum indicating that Williams was found not in compliance with the grazing program.

Sometime during the winter of 1979-80, he found a letter in a BIA vehicle which was generally used by [redacted]. The letter, dated December 7, 1979, written by Maurice Williams to the [redacted] Livestock Commission, indicated that Williams had 291 head of cattle grazing on his land.

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[redacted] advised that he was beginning to question whether Williams was in violation of the terms of the Grazing Land Deferment Program.

It was at this time that [redacted] may have talked with Williams concerning this problem. It was at this time that Williams explained to [redacted] that Williams had cattle grazing only for five months which, under a computation formula used by the Grazing Land Deferment Program, would have allowed him for an increased amount of cattle. This increased amount of cattle also

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Interviewed on 8/4/81 at Eagle Butte, South Dakota File # Minneapolis 206I-87-~~8~~

by SA [redacted] :arw Date dictated 8/5/81

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would be in concurrence with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe grazing code. Specifically, on the five-month schedule, the increase in cattle would have allowed Williams to run 341 head on his land but he was only running 263 head.

[ ] advised that the time period in which he believes the Grazing Land Deferment Program was used by Williams was between May 1, 1971, and September 31, 1979, and his ranch unit was number 14.

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[ ] advised if there were 263 head of cattle on this unit before that date, Williams would have been violating the terms of the program even under his own explanation using the five-month computation formula.

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[ ] stated there was only one head count made in October, 1979, by his agency so there was no way of proving whether Williams had excess cattle at any other time.

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[ ] advised if the year-round formula was used under the program, anything in excess of 48 cows for the year period before May 1, 1979, would have not been in compliance with the program.

[ ] stated he does not know how at this point in time that could be proven.

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[ ] indicated that he is satisfied with the explanation given by [ ] to the Area Director in a letter dated March 14, 1980. The only thing he is not happy about is the fact that Williams used the five-month period after the fact and did not advise the BIA that he was using this formula before entering into the Land Deferment Program.

[ ] indicated that there is much hate and discontent between the [ ]

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[ ] He also advised there is much jealousy against Maurice Williams on the part of some tribal members as Williams has a nice stead near Faith, South Dakota. He advised that a lot of the controversy concerning this whole issue is politically motivated and that he is just trying to do his job and does not want to get in the middle of things.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

November 10, 1981

MAURICE A. WILLIAMS;  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT -  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

On August 4, 1981, [redacted]

[redacted], advised during the Winter of 1979 and 1980, there was an allegation that Maurice Williams may have grazed an excessive amount of cattle on land deferred under the Grazing Land Deferment Program sponsored by the BIA and administered by the tribe.

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Investigation into this allegation determined that Williams may have used a five-month formula for computed numbers of cattle on his land and this would have allowed him having an increased amount of cattle. [redacted] advised the only objection he had to this formula was that it was used as a reason by Williams after the fact and the BIA was not notified of the formula Williams was using before he grazed his cattle.

On August 4, 1981, [redacted] Land Office, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, advised that only one count was made by the tribe of Maurice Williams' land where he had grazed cattle. She could not explain why only one count was made by the tribe during the time Williams had cattle on the land.

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On September 8, 1981, [redacted]

the [redacted] advised he [redacted] the Maurice Williams ranch. He advised [redacted]

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[redacted] gave the land description as to where [redacted] these cattle.

On November 9, 1981, Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] Pierre, South Dakota, after being apprised of the facts in this case, indicated he is declining prosecution in this matter since it appears a different computation was used by Williams

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MAURICE A. WILLIAMS;  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT -  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

under the grazing formula and the fact that there is no way the amount of cattle could specifically be determined to be on that land between the given dates when only one count was made by the tribe. [redacted] advised due to the above information, he is declining Federal prosecution.

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