

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

July 26, 1935.

Dear Ted:

I don't know whether you are fully aware of it or not, but Mr. Carter has always had the highest regard for the Dallas News as a paper, particularly its policies and ethics, as well as for all the men connected with it with whom he is acquainted. As a matter of fact, he sold it as a boy; like most other Texans, was reared on it; and there have been times in the family councils when he has vigorously proclaimed it a much better newspaper than our own.

But he has had several rude shocks the past few days -- in the editorial headline of last Sunday morning on the story of the Centennial Committee's appropriation to Fort Worth and the editorial expression in Tудie's stories out of Austin on the same subject. He didn't think the Dallas News would ever sanction an editorial headline or editorial expressions in a news story belittling a proposition and, by inference at least, condemning a public board for its action. It was so foreign to what the News has always done and what he expected that he couldn't comprehend it. If the News thought the appropriation unjustified or the board subject to criticism, he expected it would say so in a vigorous manner, but in an editorial; and, while one might differ with such viewpoint, certainly one could not complain as to either the right or manner of so doing.

He was on the point of writing you, but asked me to do it, because, to use his own expression, I might do it in a more "Christian spirit" than he.

As a matter of fact, Ted, the Centennial Commission is not presenting Fort Worth with anything. It is neither seeking nor expecting something for nothing. It proposes to match the \$250,000 grant with a \$1,250,000 bond issue. An election has already been called for that purpose. This is on the basis of five to one, the same that Dallas has offered.

It is true we opposed the legislative appropriation, but we have commended Dallas for the enterprise and courage shown, and our hats are off to you on that score; and now that the appropriations have been made we, of course, expect to support the Centennial to the limit. What we are proposing should afford no occasion whatsoever for jealousy or rivalry. We can't conceive of people coming to see the Livestock Centennial and not seeing the main Centennial at Dallas. We believe the two attractions will supplement and benefit each other and that neither can possibly be hurt by the other.

Of course, if we want to get back to historical considerations and take the position that the Centennial should be all historical; that industries that have helped make the state and its 100 years of progress should be ignored or made secondary, even Dallas might have had difficulty in qualifying. For neither Dallas nor Fort Worth has

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

-2

the historical background nor the claim for a Centennial based on such as has Houston, with San Jacinto, San Antonio, with the Alamo, or even some of the smaller communities, which propose to stage pageants or erect monuments.

The history of Texas began 100 years ago, it is true, but it didn't end there. It has been developing ever since and when the legislature in awarding the Centennial site put it up to the highest bidder it showed then and there its intention of either disregarding or making of secondary importance historical considerations.

It is true that no definite agreement was made in the legislature that Fort Worth would be cared for out of the lump sum appropriation; but there was an understanding to that effect, and, if Fort Worth's Senator had not yielded and withdrawn its demand for an earmarked sum in the latter stages of the fight, there would have been no appropriation whatsoever. Walter Cline and Bob Thornton both insisted that unless Fort Worth withdrew every other community with a historical background would insist upon an earmarked fund. If denied, their senators and representatives would vote against the appropriation, and, if granted, the total would be too great for passage. I sat in a session with these gentlemen from noon to midnight, and this was the basis of their argument. Furthermore, both agreed that if Fort Worth would withdraw the then Centennial Committee would support Fort Worth's application for an appropriation out of the lump sum. I believe both will verify these statements.

Consequently, I believe you can appreciate Mr. Carter's feelings which I share. Frankly, he feels the articles were a little "sour grapey" and were not in keeping with the News' usually fair and highly ethical policies.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. NORTH, JR.

Mr. Ted Dealey, V. P.,
Dallas NEWS,
Dallas, Texas.