

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

January 17, 1947.

Mr. Karl Hoblitzelle, Chairman
Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission
612 Capital National Bank Building,
Austin 16, Texas.

Dear Karl:

Your letter of December 28, received,
enclosing the final draft of the Commission's
plan for the revitalization of rural life in Texas.

The report proposes an interesting long
range program for the improvement of social and
economic conditions in our rural areas. Its over-
all objective is one in which I thoroughly agree.
The report, however, recommends that the State
create and finance a new state agency to be known
as the "Texas Rural Development Commission," to
"co-ordinate, integrate and implement" all efforts
directed toward the revitalization of our rural life.

Editorially, the Star-Telegram has taken
the position repeatedly that we already have too
many state and national boards, bureaus and commissions,
and we have consistently advocated eliminations and
consolidations rather than the creation of new ones.
It is true, however, that there is no agency at the
moment doing just what it is proposed the Texas
Rural Development Commission would do. And it may
be that the importance of improving the social and
economic conditions in our rural areas is such that
the objection to creating this one new state agency
might be overlooked.

Among other things, as I gather the new
commission would undertake to assist in the de-
velopment of rural industries associated with raw
material production and it would encourage home-
grown industries, following the conviction that the
best industrial development comes from within the
community -- a careful combination of usage of local
capital, local natural resources, and local labor.

This is a worthwhile activity, and something
which I think Texas badly needs. In fact, the Star-
Telegram carried an editorial last Tuesday morning

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commending North Carolina for doing exactly what you have planned in your program for Texas.

Your report also recommends that the new commission "be empowered with overall direction of research in state supported institutions." I doubt seriously the wisdom of this recommendation. I can see where some co-ordination or research in the various institutions might serve a useful purpose. But setting up a new state agency with authority, in research matters, superseding the authority of the various college and university administrators and their boards of regents or directors is quite another thing.

Therefore, while I approve in general I do so with the exceptions outlined herein and could not consistently sign the report as approved in its entirety.

Permit me at this time to express my thanks and appreciation to you for the untiring efforts and time you have devoted to the program for revitalization of rural life in Texas. It is a thankless job - on the other hand there is nothing more important confronting the life, happiness and success of the rural citizenship of Texas than the general plan you have submitted herewith. Nothing could be more important or beneficial to our State.

Sincerely,

A. G. Carter

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