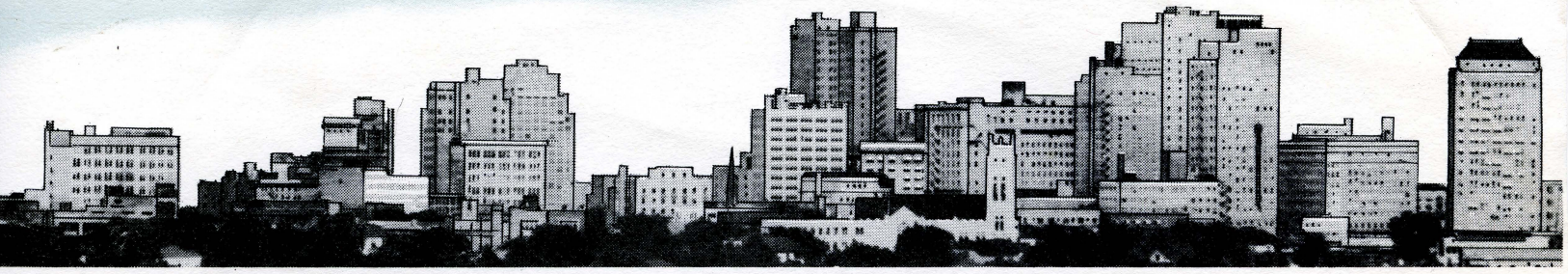


FORT WORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

February 10, 1954.

Mr. Amon G. Carter,
Fort Worth Star-Telegram,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

In checking over the copy of the report I sent to you by Amon, Jr., I find a good many errors I did not catch in my extreme rush to get the report to Amon, Jr. before he left the office, last evening.

Attached is a corrected copy, and I will greatly appreciate it if you will tear up the old one since it contained errors. The only appreciable change is the addition of the last sentence in item 3.

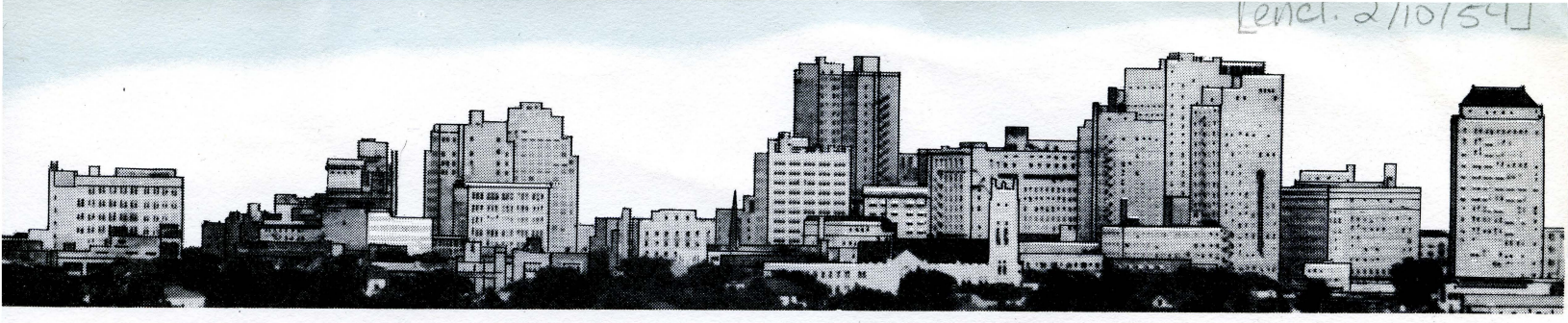
With best regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

William Holden.

WH/ee

[encl. 2/10/54]



FORT WORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

February 9, 1954.

Corrected Copy

Mr. Amon G. Carter,
Fort Worth Star-Telegram,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

I want to give you a brief report on my calls in Washington last week in regard to the Air Force Academy. I contacted nearly everyone that I thought could be of any help to us in this matter. I first had the three Congressmen; Lucas, Ikard, and Wilson, along with Dale Miller, Washington representative of the Dallas Chamber, for lunch in order to get all of us thinking and talking along the same line. Later I had conferences with the following: Bob Clark, representative of the Santa Fe Railroad; General Joe Kelley, Liason Officer, Air Force, General Harmon, and Colonel Boudreau of the old Academy Sites Board, General Ramey, Secretary Bob Anderson, and Secretary Talbott, Senator Price Daniel, and Arthur Perry, Executive Assistant to Senator Johnson. I showed all of them, except Secretary Talbott the summary which we had prepared and furnished you with a copy of last spring, and pictures taken by the U. S. Army Engineers, showing water in Lake Grapevine last fall; also an aerial view of Marine Air Base on Eagle Mountain Lake, together with a plat of the same with the suggestion that this, together with Meacham Field and Denton Airport, would furnish good auxillary fields for the main airport at the Grapevine site.

Without boring you with details, I have reached the following conclusions from these various conversations:

1. Secretary Talbott is not favorable to Texas, because of weather. He thinks it is too hot in the summertime, and generally too uniform or even weather. He thinks the Academy should be located where there are four distinct seasons (including winter). He indicates that he will meet with the new Board and discuss the requirements, which will include available cultural facilities and weather. The new Board will be selected from states not likely to be contenders for the location. In addition to General Spaatz and General Harmon, he said he has invited Messrs. Finletter and Meigs. He wanted to select the fifth member from the Southwest, but of course would have to exclude Texas. From the Secretary, General Harmon, and Colonel Boudreau, I got the impression the new Board might consider a number of sites in addition to the original seven. As soon as they have made some preliminary investigations, they would like to visit all sites under consideration. I extended a very urgent invitation to all of them to visit us as soon as they are ready to begin considerations.

2. Texas is liable to be handicapped with the Air Force and the new Board because of the fact that we have three sites and therefore do not have a united delegation. Colorado, for example, has their governor, two senators, and all their congressmen pulling for one site, whereas we do not have any activity so far on the part of our senators or our governor. It would be a good thing if we can get sponsors of the three locations, to contact our two senators and Governor and our respective congressmen and assure them we are all for Texas, and think it is the ideal location for the Academy because of weather, flying conditions, and terrain; all of which have been so thoroughly approved of by the Air Force in the past. Of course, all of us would reserve the right to try to sell our own site if we could get them to look favorably on Texas.

3. I think we have to concentrate on selling the new Board strongly on our location & climate, including winter and snow. It still has the best all-year-round flying conditions in the country. Probably the Board can influence the Secretary.

4. If we can't win the Secretary, we probably will have to try to win higher up. Secretary Wilson, and even President Eisenhower, will probably have to get into the picture before it is settled. General Ramey gave me some very good advice; he thinks that we should try to reach General Spaatz, who he believes, will have a great deal of influence on General Harmon and other members of the Board. He also says that General Spaatz has very high regard for you. I tried to see General Spaatz, and found he is on vacation, enroute to Mexico City, having left Washington about Friday, January 29th by auto. He expects to be back in Washington on March 10th. His office says he can be reached c/o Air Attache, American Embassy, Mexico City. If you so desire, I will be glad to undertake to contact him by telephone or telegraph and invite him to come back by Fort Worth and see our lake.

I also made some Industrial calls in the east, and talked with Mr. Jacobs of American Airlines on the telephone regarding the Air Force Academy situation. I told him I was sure you would be contacting them at the proper time, and mine was only a preliminary discussion. He seemed to be interested, because American would stand to handle a lot of air traffic to and from the Academy, if it is located at Lake Grapevine.

I understand Mrs. Deakins is away on vacation, and I am sending this over to Amon, Jr., or will send out by messenger. I expect to follow up on the preparation of our revised brief, hitting the high spots as soon as we know the requirements of the new Board. It is expected that the bill will probably go through the Senate rather promptly after the hearings on February 18th, and the new Board should be appointed early in March. If there is anything you care to have me do in this connection, please advise.

I hope your health is improving, and that you are taking care of yourself. With best regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

William Holden

WH/ee

William Holden.

MEMO FROM
WILLIAM HOLDEN
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
FT. WORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2/10/54

Dear Mr Deaken:

Enclosed for your information is copy of a report sent to Mr. Carter during your absence.

Sincerely,

W.H.

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1954