

United States District Court

Northern District of Oklahoma

Judge's Chambers

F. E. KENNAMER  
JUDGE

Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 8th, 1941.

Honorable Amon G. Carter, Editor,  
Fort Worth Star Telegram,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

Mrs. John Catlett, Democratic National Committeewoman of Oklahoma, and my good friend, is now confined to the hospital, recovering from a major sinus operation.

Being unable to do so herself, she asked me to send you the enclosed letter from Mr. Victor Barnett, in which he calls on her in a last minute struggle to secure this bombing plant for Tulsa.

She got quite a kick out of Mr. Barnett's reference to Bob Kerr, inasmuch as the press had about ten days ago carried a story about Mr. Kerr building a political machine whereby he hopes to be elected Governor of Oklahoma; stating that he enjoyed the close confidence of Governor Phillips. She stated that just that just about a week before the national election Governor Phillips made Mr. Kerr, President of the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, and the next day appointed his brother Aubrey Kerr, attorney, to the draft board; and that she felt like the national administration should not be kidded by people that say one thing to one group, and something else to another. That she knew personally the political situation in Oklahoma and the difficult struggle Mr. Roosevelt had in the campaign here in Oklahoma; and that she knew that Mr. Phillips, the Governor, had done everything he could to defeat President Roosevelt. And that she, Mrs. Catlett, did not raise her hand or voice to help secure this bombing plant; and that she did not do this from an unpatriotic standpoint, that she felt like "why should the national administration recognize an adverse situation; that so long as we have bombing plants she didn't care where they were located.

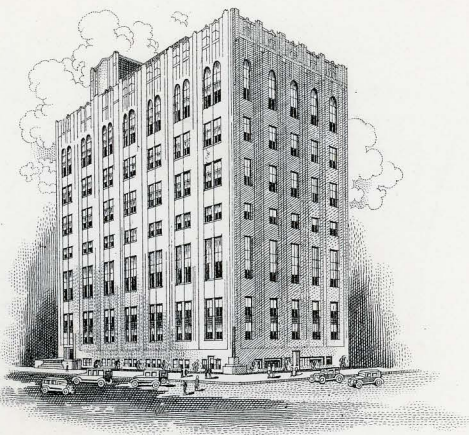
Mrs. Catlett suggested that you might get this letter to your good friend and hers, Mr. Edward Flynn.

With assurances of her good wishes to you for a Happy New Years, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Opal Kennamer*





# TULSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TULSA BUILDING — FIFTH AND CINCINNATI

TULSA  
OKLAHOMA

December 27, 1940

Air Mail Special

Mrs. John G. Catlett  
c/o Carl Sharp  
1050 North Shook Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mrs. Catlett:

As you have kept informed, I am sure, the War Department last Saturday officially awarded one of the government's owned aircraft assembly plants to Tulsa to be operated here by the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation of San Diego, California.

Today Senator Lee and Congressman Disney, who were both in Tulsa, were informed by the War Department that Texas political interests descended upon them yesterday and demanded that they take the plant away from Oklahoma and award it to Fort Worth, Texas. The Texas people were so vigorous in their denunciation of Oklahoma and so successful in their plea for Texas that they succeeded in getting an order from the War Department suspending Tulsa from the list for one week while they marshalled their forces to clinch the award for Fort Worth.

Senator Lee urged us to get in touch with you immediately and to tell you that he considered the situation very grave for Tulsa and to urge you to get on the long distance telephone with Edward Flynn and Mrs. McAllister and plead with them to see that Oklahoma gets fair play in this vital matter.

Tulsa has been chosen for this plant by the Army Air Corps and by the Advisory Council for National Defense, and this decision has been approved by General Arnold and Wm. Knudsen, heads of these two organizations. They take the view that they want Tulsa and have said so and that it is now out of their hands and into the hands of the political leaders. For this reason we must marshal every bit of strength we have in an effort to match the influence of Texas. We have these two powerful facts on our side -

#2 (Mrs. Catlett)

That Tulsa has been chosen on merit by the two agencies named above and that this has been announced publicly without equivocation through all the newspapers of the United States by the Associated Press and the United Press. Our second clinching argument is the fact that Oklahoma has received only \$2.59 per capita from the rearmament program up to December 1, while Texas has received \$20.90 per capita and still wants more at our expense.

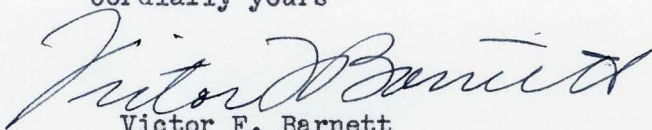
Senator Thomas is now in Washington fighting this, and Lee and Disney are on the way there today, with the big scrap to come Monday.

I understand you have been ill, and I do not want to overtax you at such a time; but there never has been anything more vital than this in Tulsa's history, since this plant is to employ up to 10,000 workers, and we must ask every influential Tulsan to do everything possible. You and Bob Kerr can do much, and I have just finished talking to him, with the result that he is already in action. We will have to go to the White House probably to hold the decision which we already have from the War Department and the Advisory Council of National Defense, and I hope you will proceed from here in the way your own good judgment dictates.

Tulsa has already lost hundreds of carpenters, metal workers and electricians and others to those cities which have received national defense plants and orders, and we simply can't stand a bad break like this. Nor should Oklahoma have to.

With best regards and best wishes for a speedy recovery,  
I am

Cordially yours



Victor F. Barnett  
President