

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

Temporary Office
Office of the President
Temple University
Broad and Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia 22, Pa.

March 24, 1949

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

Dear Mr. Carter:

Your ready response to my telegram is evidence of a strong national demand for reorganization of the government. Thank you for replying so promptly.

You will be glad to know that several hundred outstanding citizens throughout America have already pledged, with you, their support of our movement. These citizens represent agriculture, business, education, labor, veterans, and women's and other groups. Among them are two former Vice-Presidents of the United States and ten former Cabinet Officers of both parties.

This shows a great national awareness of the importance of the report of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government headed by former President Herbert Hoover. An unprecedented degree of public and editorial approval has greeted the publication of the report throughout America.

For some time many interested citizens and organizations have been writing to Mr. Hoover and his associates asking, in effect: "Who will carry on this great program and work for its support?" and, "What can I do to help?" After consultation with Mr. Hoover and others, I have agreed to undertake the national chairmanship of a movement for continued public information and support of the Hoover Commission's proposals.

Now we are on our way. The Citizens Committee for Reorganization of the government is a reality of rapidly growing stature. We recognize the odds which always face important governmental reforms. Since the days of Andrew Jackson, efforts to reorganize the government have been made repeatedly with but scant success. But never in history has the effort been made on such a scale or under such circumstances as those which brought the Hoover Commission into being and produced its splendid report. Never have an incumbent President and a former President joined forces, as Mr. Truman and Mr. Hoover have done, in a bi-partisan effort to improve our government. Never has a gigantic research task been discharged so ably.

Never, for that matter, have the American people been so concerned about their government. It has grown both in size and cost to a baffling extent. Granting the need for large-scale government, we want one that we can understand and rely upon to preserve our freedom and our resources, human and material.

I truly believe, therefore, that the time is at hand when far-reaching and enduring reforms in the federal government can be put into effect. If the public

is informed and expresses itself actively in a demand for thorough-going reorganization, Congress will act.

We have no illusions about the complexity of the task we are undertaking. It is a big job and a hard one. Opposition will be vigorous. But there is a vast national wellspring of public enthusiasm which needs only to be tapped in order to convince Congress that the demand for basic reforms is deep-seated and real. We have been given the blueprint, and the tools are at hand. With them we can build a monument to the great work of Mr. Hoover and his able associates and a guarantee that our Government will be a servant, not the master, of the people in the future.

In a short time we will be able to announce the formation of the committee and something of our plans for its organization and operation. The impetus of this movement has been so sudden and the response so great that we have had no time to formulate a program in detail. However, we are able to tell you this much:

(1) The Committee will be national in scope and will represent all constructive elements and forces in the national life.

(2) It will be non-partisan.

(3) It will be an entirely new movement in order to enable all existing groups of every sort to participate in the program and coordinate its work with theirs.

(4) The National Committee will be reinforced by a series of state and regional committees and subcommittees representing all fields of endeavor.

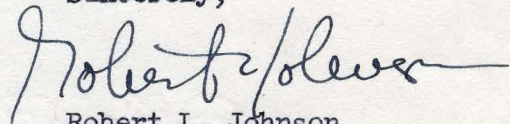
(5) It will provide information, analysis, and study material which can be used by national, state, and community organizations to mobilize the great force of public opinion on the side of basic governmental reform.

(6) Essentially temporary, the Committee will have to function for at least one year, possibly more. The process of installing new procedures in government is a slow one under the best of circumstances and requires much painstaking legislation and action.

We know how eager you are to join actively in the drive ahead. Please bear with us while we form the lines and prepare for action. You will hear from us before long concerning the organization and the role which you can play in its work.

Thank you again for your public-spirited action.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Johnson
Chairman