

Columbia University
in the City of New York

NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 22, 1949

Dear Amon:

This is merely to tell you once more how grateful Mamie and I are to you and Minnie for the many wonderful courtesies you extended us during our recent trip. It was fun to be with you down at Sid's island and we thoroughly enjoyed our stay at the Club. On top of all this, the luncheon that Minnie gave at your house was truly an enjoyable and attractive affair. We are grateful.

There was one thing I heard at the Chamber of Commerce meeting that puzzled me a little and concerning which I had no chance to ask you. I heard the so-called "Trinity River Project" spoken of in glowing terms; it was implied that the Federal Government should prosecute that Project energetically. Quite obviously, I do not know much about the Trinity River Project, but I have heard from some of our railroad friends that it comprises a deliberate attempt to induce the Federal Government to provide, at great public expense, an unnecessary competition for the railways of that region.

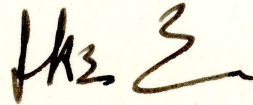
I realize that my ignorance of the facts may be responsible for such questions as are now in my mind, but I know that people like you and Sid and the others that I like and respect in Texas are definitely opposed to unnecessary Federal intervention in state and local matters, and cannot be led to violate this principle by anything, merely because it promises temporary local advantage.

I do hope you will continue to give some thought to Columbia and the suggestions that I made to you concerning it. I honestly believe that this institution deserves support from such individuals as you and other prominent Texans, even though I recognize that your first obligation is to your local colleges. The national viewpoint and national thinking are so important that we must have a good solid minority of all our young people, from every state, trained in institutions that are truly national in character and purpose, and where each student can meet representatives from all over the country, indeed, from all over the world.

Mamie and I send to you and Minnie and to the members of your family our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With warm personal regard,

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. E.' with a stylized flourish at the end.