



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1940.

My dear Mr. Carter:

Your letter of April 28 is here but it isn't in your best style. It was all right so far as I am concerned to give it out to the press but I suspect that no paper except the Fort Worth Star-Telegram will consider it worth printing. It is a rash editor who will refuse to pay due respect to the brain child of his publisher.

Since it was my determination in the first place that my former letter should be personal as between us, I had the right to change my mind. This I did when I found that you were crowing like a rooster on a dung hill over an editorial that really wasn't anything to crow about.

No one was trying to dictate to you whom you should support for President. You are entitled to kid yourself all you want to -- if you are kidding yourself. Perhaps you ought to have a conservator appointed.

You hold me responsible for the political opinions and activities of Under-Secretary Wirtz. You don't mention his name but you seem to spill a lot of language about him. He isn't a political peon of yours either. Even if I tried to order him about as you do, I would have just as much influence with him as you have -- and that isn't any at all.

Belatedly, you discover that oil regulation has[“] nothing to do with the case, tra-la! If I referred to the subject in my letter to you it was because you had dragged it into your editorial. Perhaps this was only natural because oil and sulphur and politics at times seem to constitute a smelly trinity in Texas.

That "just country folks" line is a good one. "Just country folks," in overalls, getting along as well as they can and pleading with tears in their eyes for the "right" to stand up for their own candidate, while raising hell with others who prefer a different man for President. I wonder how many delegates any other possible candidate, other than the President himself, would get in Texas if even such citizens as can afford to vote were permitted to do so.

Great is democracy when it functions under the beneficent poll tax! By the way, have you ever thought of spelling this "pole", in order to bring out the aroma?

Anyhow, I am glad that you are not engaged in a campaign "to defeat Roosevelt." Why not make your attitude clear by printing one of your forceful editorials commenting on Mr. Germany's and Mrs. Driscoll's animadversions in that regard.

Very truly yours,

Harold G. Peltas

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