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Amon G. Carter, President and Publisher

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### Mr. Ickes Writes a Personal Letter to the Publisher.

The Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington,

April 18, 1940.

#### PERSONAL

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

My Dear Mr. Carter:

To judge from the editorials in the more-or-less esteemed Fort Worth Star-Telegram of March 26 and 27, something has occurred to dim your bright spirits. I hope that you have not suffered to such an extent that you no longer are able to adorn the streets of your city as you swing along with a proprietarian air to gladden the eyes and brighten the lives of less favored individuals with your tonsorial effulgence.

You ought to betake yourself to the border, where you could more easily turn back the presumptuous carpetbaggers from Washington who have the effrontery to go to Texas to "dictate" to the intrepid, upstanding citizens of that State how they should vote. It is apparent that you do not trust your citizens to vote without strict supervision. But, do you compliment them by suggesting that they are so ill-informed and so lacking in convictions that it is dangerous for them to listen to the seductive voice of some utliander who slips into Texas with the ulterior and sinister purpose of herding citizens to the polls to vote, under compulsion, for a candidate other than the one whose nomination you are supporting?

It would seem that, in common with some native-born and lifelong Texans, I, according to the veracious Star-Telegram, am a "carpetbagger." I have visited your State on several occasions and on no one of them have I made a political speech or talked politics privately. I have gone to Texas bearing gifts—rich gifts—not a few of them eloquently solicited by the Great Editor of Fort Worth—and you never thought of calling me a carpetbagger.

My most recent visit to your State was in response to a courteous invitation, persistently urged, to take part in the celebration of the discovery of the great East Texas oil field. On that excursion I spoke no word of politics to a single human being while in the jurisdiction over which you presume to exercise dictatorial rights as to what ideas may be disseminated among your people, and yet, forsooth, I am a carpetbagger! Yet, I might, with propriety, have discussed the presidential situation while in Texas because, after all, the coming election is not to elect a President of Texas, but of the United States, of which I am a citizen.

If our political institutions are not a sham, every citizen has a right, peacefully, to influence the opinion of others if he can. I understand that you and your associates sent "carpetbaggers" into Wisconsin and Illinois prior to the recent primaries in those States. If I did not have good authority for this, I would seriously question it, judging from the election results.

I wonder what you are afraid of. We are not afraid of ideas in Illinois and people are allowed to vote without interference with their right to read and think and talk about issues and candidates. Under our system in Illinois, every qualified voter may cast his ballot freely and secretly. We do not have any disfranchising poll tax!

The day following the Wisconsin primaries, two of your associates gave out a prepared statement in which they jubilated that, although Roosevelt had defeated Garner by about three to one,

the third term movement had, in reality, collapsed because the results showed that if the Garner vote were added to the total Republican vote, Roosevelt could not carry Wisconsin next November. They might also have argued that if the total Democratic vote were added to the Vandenberg vote, Roosevelt would be overwhelmingly elected in Wisconsin in November.

In other words, according to this utterance, the movement, in which you are such a shining light, is not for the nomination of any particular man. It is to defeat Roosevelt.

As to my wanting to run the oil business of Texas, that also is flappoodle. No more than I was a "carpetbagger," when I was helping distribute generous chunks of federal money, was I an oil dictator in 1933, when you great, strong, he-men wrung your hands while the price went down to 10 cents a barrel in the East Texas field. I was a fine fellow when I went into Texas, with the backing and the helping of the President, to pull you sturdy individualists out of the slough of despond that you yourselves had created.

You have been much interested financially in oil, as I have understood from you on several occasions, and you doubtless regard yourself, as you are held by others, to be a successful and resourceful businessman. And yet you oppose a federal law to prevent such waste as is occurring in the newly discovered oil fields of Illinois, although if this flush production continues to be thrown indiscriminately on the market, it is likely to crack the price for crude in Texas, and so destroy the structure that the Federal Government carefully rebuilt for you in 1933 and 1934. You may believe that this shows sound business sense and real perspicacity, but it makes you think of a boy in short pants, playing with tin soldiers, and pretending that he is Napoleon.

The really curious thing about your editorial emanations is that even a native-born and lifelong Texan is a "carpetbagger" if he does not respond to the crack of your whip and join your "Defeat Roosevelt!" movement.

One striking difference between you and me is that I have a higher respect for Texans than you seem to possess. Apparently you believe that they ought to think as they are told and vote as they are ordered. I do not hold them in such low disesteem. I do not believe that Texans are political peons. And the straw ballots that have been taken in Texas, but which you neither dare to take nor to print, support this belief.

You call yourself a Democrat, but if you were, you would be satisfied to let the people rule. And you would insist that every citizen be given a full chance to declare whom he wants as his candidate. You think of yourself as a sportsman. But if you were, you would gracefully accept the results when the people have spoken as they have in Wisconsin and Illinois and Nebraska, where people are really allowed to vote as free men. You prate of loyalty to your party and yet you allow the spokesmen of a small minority in Texas to acclaim loudly to the world that, while your candidate is able to garner only a handful of votes here and there, he nevertheless has enough to defeat the President as the Democratic nominee in November.

And when the President shall have been re-elected in November, you and other such "leaders" will be the first to hie you to the pie counter.

Notwithstanding all of which, you are a pretty good fellow—when you permit yourself to function as a normal human being. But not when you print editorials that do not make sense, that have no logic back of them, and which reflect the Ku Klux spirit.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) HAROLD L. ICKES,  
Secretary of the Interior.

### The Publisher Acknowledges Mr. Ickes' Letter.

April 23, 1940.

Honorable Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hope you will forgive the delay in replying to your personal letter dated in Washington April 18, which arrived in Fort Worth on the 22nd, a delay which has been due to chance and not to any intent of my own. Your letter came to my office during my absence and, since it bore on the envelope the word "Personal," which was underscored, it was naturally assumed that your wish was that no other person should peruse it, at least until after I had done so. My office sent you a letter on April 24 by airmail (which you should have received the morning of the 25th) prior to the date you sent out your letter to the Congressmen April 26. This letter stated the fact of my absence and assured you that the letter would be attended to promptly on my return. Still, you saw fit to change the character of the correspondence from private to public. That is all right with

me; but if only you had thought of the reporters before marking the letter "Personal," we could have gotten all of this over sooner. It may be a small matter, but I prefer my bawlings-out at first hand. I regret the shine taken off your letter by the publicity short-circuit, for it was a pretty good effort, in the best traditions of the blast from the imaginary throne.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in hoping that I had not suffered to such an extent that I am "no longer able to adorn the streets of our city as I swing along with proprietarian [Golly, what a word!] air to gladden the eyes and brighten the lives of less favored individuals with my tonsorial effulgence." This paragraph is a "dinger" and should have lessened the imaginary burden you carry.

I am forced to confess that there has been a bit of extra delay, even after my return Saturday, April 27, due to the necessity of obtaining help in the effort to understand just what all those 12-cylinder words in your letter meant. I have a dark suspicion that if I could figure out all of them, I would tend to be irritated. And that is an alarming thought, after seeing what irritation does to a nature usually notable for its sunniness.

I am sure you do not really subscribe to the theory which you seem to advance in your letter—that because an official has been right once, he must perforce be acknowledged to be right at all other times, and that because a citizen, not on the Government payroll, has once been pleased with performances by an official that citizen is forever debarred from being displeased with anything the official later may do. Assisted, as you say, by the full power of the Administration, you did a good job in helping Texas with its oil problems, for which we give you full credit; but, I must respectfully point out that we do not necessarily need the same kind of help, with or without the co-operation of your department, in respect to political problems in Texas at the moment.

If there is a connection between oil regulation, or even PWA projects, and the question of whether Texas should be allowed peaceably to stand up for its own John Garner, I fail to get it. But, you see, down here we are just country folks. We get along as well as we do only because there are not many who are hardhearted enough to take advantage of us. Naturally, we can not afford to get mad when there is an occasional exception; we are too busy being thankful there are not more of them.

I am more touched than you can imagine by your solicitude for the freedom of Texas voters and subscribe fully to your obviously lately developed opinion that they are capable of acting for themselves without being told how. If your department had adopted that view earlier, or even now if you would give expression to it by placing a parental restraint on some of the enthusiastic saviors of Texas, who are now on the payroll of your department and presumably under your control, our newspaper would not feel called upon to horn into the matter of your relations with Texas. If it be true, as you say, that our editorials have attempted to influence Texas voters to stand up for Garner, it is just as true that you, directly or indirectly, by overt word or by the "tonsorial effulgence" of your presence, have attempted to influence Texas voters to deny their own man. If our course is "dictatorial," it is plainly less reprehensible than the same sort of thing on the other side coming from outside the State. After all, we are Texans and have been for generations, and we were Democrats even long before the 1932 campaign. Our ballot has always been for the Democratic ticket and we expect it to continue to be so, even though we may be reprimanded from the imaginary throne for having the temerity of expressing ourselves about our State's part in the selection of party nominees. These things may not be important, but they do suggest that we may have a clearer right to an opinion on Texas affairs than a non-Texan whose party record is of such late beginning.

You stated you have come to Texas "bearing gifts—rich gifts—not a few of them eloquently solicited by the Great Editor of Fort Worth" and we never thought of calling you a carpetbagger. Frankly, we have had the old-fashioned idea that the grants by the PWA were not personal gifts but in line with the policy of your department in co-operating with municipalities in constructive building programs for the benefit of a community as a whole, and it is a revelation to me to find out otherwise. Incidentally, none of them are in any way a personal benefit to the publisher of *The Star-Telegram*. Two in particular—the Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum-Auditorium and the Municipal Airport Administration Building—were carried out on a constructive basis by your administrators of the Public Works Administration and are being repaid to the Government

in full keeping with all of your requirements.

You accuse me and my "associates" of sending carpetbaggers into Wisconsin and Illinois. In reply, will state for the benefit of your information that I am not even an official member of the committee having charge of the campaign for the advancement of Mr. Garner's candidacy for President nor have I participated in any statements made to the effect that the third term had, in reality, collapsed because of the results shown in Wisconsin. Meanwhile, I have no apology to make for supporting an outstanding Democrat like Mr. Garner who so far as I know is the only definite out-in-the-open Democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States.

You further state as follows: "In other words, according to this utterance, the movement, in which you are such a shining light, is not for the nomination of any particular man. It is to defeat Roosevelt." This is a misstatement entirely disproved by the facts. No one has a greater personal respect or higher regard and admiration for President Roosevelt than I have. He came into office in trying times and has done a great job under difficult circumstances; however, he has not indicated by word of mouth or in print that he is a candidate for the third term, and in keeping with our previous attitude we are supporting Mr. Garner, as we did in 1932, and have supported Roosevelt and Garner since that time. Garner being the only full-fledged candidate at this time, we are supporting him on a basis of his past record of service to the Democratic party; and his qualifications for the higher office. For this, we have no apology.

You indicated that our opposition to Government regulation of the oil industry makes you think of the boy in short pants playing with tin soldiers and pretending that he is Napoleon. It may be that you are thinking of your own attitude on this matter and talking about me. Let's not befuddle the issue. The results in Wisconsin and Illinois have nothing to do with Texas supporting John Garner.

You stated that when President Roosevelt shall have been re-elected in November that I with "other such leaders" will be the first to hie to the pie counter. Frankly, if the President is re-elected, he will be my President the same as yours, and if there be a pie counter left, we shall reserve the right, even without your gracious permission, to demand and expect for Texas the same treatment accorded any other State in the Union. But, for fear I will become serious I will bring this acknowledgment to your "hot-shot" letter to a close.

You stated that I am a "pretty good fellow when I permit myself to function as a normal human being. But not when I print editorials that do not make sense, that have no logic back of them." That is pretty phraseology but, fortunately, you are not the sole arbiter of whether they make sense or not. You are a pretty good fellow yourself but you, unfortunately, irritate quickly and often, and it never occurred to me that one small country publisher could bring forth the wrath and tirade of statements given vent in your letter. Of course, I am flattered by the fact that such heavy artillery has been brought out to squelch me—like the town drunk who finds it a matter of pride when a whole squad of policemen rolls up. If I'm going to be "took," I like it to be done in style. In your letter to the Texas Congressmen you unduly complimented me again when you stated you were sending a copy of the letter you were writing to "the Horace Greeley of Texas." This is like the darkey who, asked by the white man if he had change for a ten-dollar bill, replied, "No, Boss, I ain't, but I sho' do appreciate the compliment."

Since you saw fit to release a copy of your "personal" letter to me before I had an opportunity to read it myself, I presume what is "sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," and I am taking the liberty of releasing a copy of my reply to your letter (which I am mailing to you by airmail tonight), together with editorial comment which may cover a few phases not contained in my acknowledgment.

When the campaign is over, if you want to rest from the cares and responsibilities that you have and assume, come down to Shady Oak Farm, where the West begins, and we will extend you a cordial welcome.

Most sincerely,  
AMON CARTER.

### Mr. Ickes Irritates Easily and Quickly.

THE Honorable Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, can dish it out—'as everybody knows. But evidently he can't take it.

On this page are presented several exhibits, as the lawyers call them, in the case of Ickes versus himself. They

might also be cited as mileposts on the road to a profound irritation.

Mr. Ickes is irritated beyond the conception of ordinary natures. And his irritation leads him to slash out at the first handy head, in much the same manner as the bull in the ring, also irritated, makes himself ready to pulverize the first comer.

Whoever draws the fiery eye upon himself must duck and dodge as best he can, hoping eventually to escape when the bull's attention is attracted elsewhere. It does no good to defend; retreat, fast and far, is the only help.

Yet we can not refrain from throwing in a soft word in attempting to soothe the savage breast. Even in the midst of our terrified pride that we should have been singled out for such a blast, we must have a thought for future safety.

So we hasten to inform Mr. Ickes that the term "carpetbagger," which was only indirectly applied to himself in our editorial, is not final. If the epithet displeases him, and does not fit, that solves that.

Now that our apologies are thus handsomely made, we hope that Mr. Ickes will excuse us if, in taking up specific matters in his letter to this newspaper's publisher, we accidentally irritate him further.

An irritated man sometimes reveals far more than he intends. Irritated Mr. Ickes reveals a startling concept of his own place in politics and government. What is said about many, he takes wholly to himself. It will be observed, in reading the editorial complained of (and reprinted herewith), that mention of Mr. Ickes was definitely incidental if not casual. But he gathers all the spears to his own tortured bosom.

Two main itches seem to be irritating Mr. Ickes. One is the alleged ingratitude of Texans generally, and the publisher of this newspaper specifically, for services rendered in the past; the other is his persistent misunderstanding and misinterpretation of Texas' natural predilection for its most eminent son, John Garner. And the epithet "carpetbagger," although it merely pointed up an entirely obvious analogy, seems to have hit a particularly sensitive part of his anatomy.

The Secretary says that in the past he has "gone to Texas bearing gifts—rich gifts," and was not called a carpetbagger. That is the way the Secretary looks at it, but down here we had not understood that they were gifts, or that the Secretary's part was any other than that of an agent. Allocations to Texas under the PWA, etc., have been regarded here as items of co-operation between local communities and the Government, in which the former, at some cost to themselves, obtained public improvements, and the latter, at a cost in which all share, furthered its program for providing employment.

The Star-Telegram and its publisher have no apology to make for their occasional appearance on behalf of Texas and Fort Worth public works projects before the powers that be in Washington, nor for Texas' acceptance of such projects after they have been granted. If Texas and other States had not co-operated with the Federal Government in this manner, thereby taking upon themselves a considerable part of the load, the vast work-producing program of which the Administration is properly proud could never have been carried on. Two of the principal items among these projects which we have tried to further are the Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum and Auditorium and the Fort Worth Municipal Airport. Our information is that both these projects are repaying federal loans on schedule, which places them among the works cited by Washington authorities as furnishing justification for this sort of spending.

And in the case of oil regulation help, coming also from the Federal Government through Mr. Ickes' agency, Texas is accused of ingratitude because it now opposes the same sort of help as applying to the business of the State's indorsement of a presidential candidate.

But Mr. Ickes' irritation here leads him to jump to another wrong conclusion. This newspaper has wholeheartedly recognized that in the matter of oil regulation—federal help to the oil States struggling to protect themselves against wasteful exploitation—Mr. Ickes has done a magnificent job. If the Secretary will do the same for Illinois that he did for Texas, he will be continuing the good work as well as giving to his home State a timely aid that certainly ought to be appreciated there and elsewhere. And, as he showed in Texas, the Secretary does not need a Cole bill to do the job. He should be able to "take" Illinois with no heavier weapons than he brought to the aid of Texas and still leave the States in possession of their oil resources.

Surely the Secretary does not subscribe to the theory that because an official was once right he can never thereafter be wrong, and that because a

citizen once is pleased with an official act that citizen is forever debarred from being displeased with anything the official may later do.

Because Texas once was willing to accept federal aid in setting to rights a disadvantageous oil situation does not necessarily signify that Texas ought now to be willing to accept Mr. Ickes' oil control theory as a whole.

Mr. Ickes believes that the Federal Government should take over oil regulation. We believe that this is a matter for the States, aided by the Federal Government. In fact, it might be pertinent to quote here the old aphorism that the need is for less government in business and more business in government.

The reader may wonder how talk about oil regulation and PWA "gifts" finds a place in a discussion of John Garner and Texas' votes in the Democratic convention. The answer is that Mr. Ickes has been irritated.

Perhaps it is all our fault, for getting the Secretary so riled that his historic perspective failed him. If he had looked up from the dictionary, where he pursued rare and biting words with which to assail us, he might have realized that the charge of leading a battle to "defeat Roosevelt" is worse than "flap-doodle," and is unmitigated and inexcusable fiction as applied to this newspaper. It is a matter of fact, easily provable, that this newspaper has been one of the outstanding exceptions to the rule of Roosevelt opposition among American newspapers.

Although at the time Mr. Ickes was rather new to the business of being a Democrat, it should not have been too much trouble for him to find out that in the campaign of 1932 *The Star-Telegram*, then as well as now pulling strongly for Garner before the nomination, was in the forefront of support of the Roosevelt-Garner ticket in the campaign which followed. His press-clipping bureau doubtless could inform him of the continuing support by this newspaper of the great general objectives of the Roosevelt Administration since 1932. It is true that we have not always entirely agreed as to details and methods, but that is a privilege which goes with American citizenship.

Along with our support for the Roosevelt Administration has gone a keen appreciation and high regard for the President, respect for his integrity, official and personal, and admiration for the magnificent accomplishments of his great leadership. It is unthinkable to this newspaper and its publisher that any campaign to "defeat Roosevelt" could gain either direct or indirect support from them. In the present instance, whatever interpretation Mr. Ickes in his irritation may put upon it, our idea is merely support for Garner. The publisher of this newspaper is not a member of any official committee and obviously is not responsible for what may be said by anybody else. He has nothing to do with any activities except his own, and has no standing as a Garner "leader" other than that which derives from his personal knowledge and lifelong friendship and admiration for the great Texan, who likewise has done a great and constructive job for the Democratic party and is still capable of doing so. And lacking the crystal ball which seems to tell Mr. Ickes more than mortal man may know, this publisher can not see in his Texas friendship for a fellow Texan anything which operates against his friendship and admiration for Mr. Roosevelt.

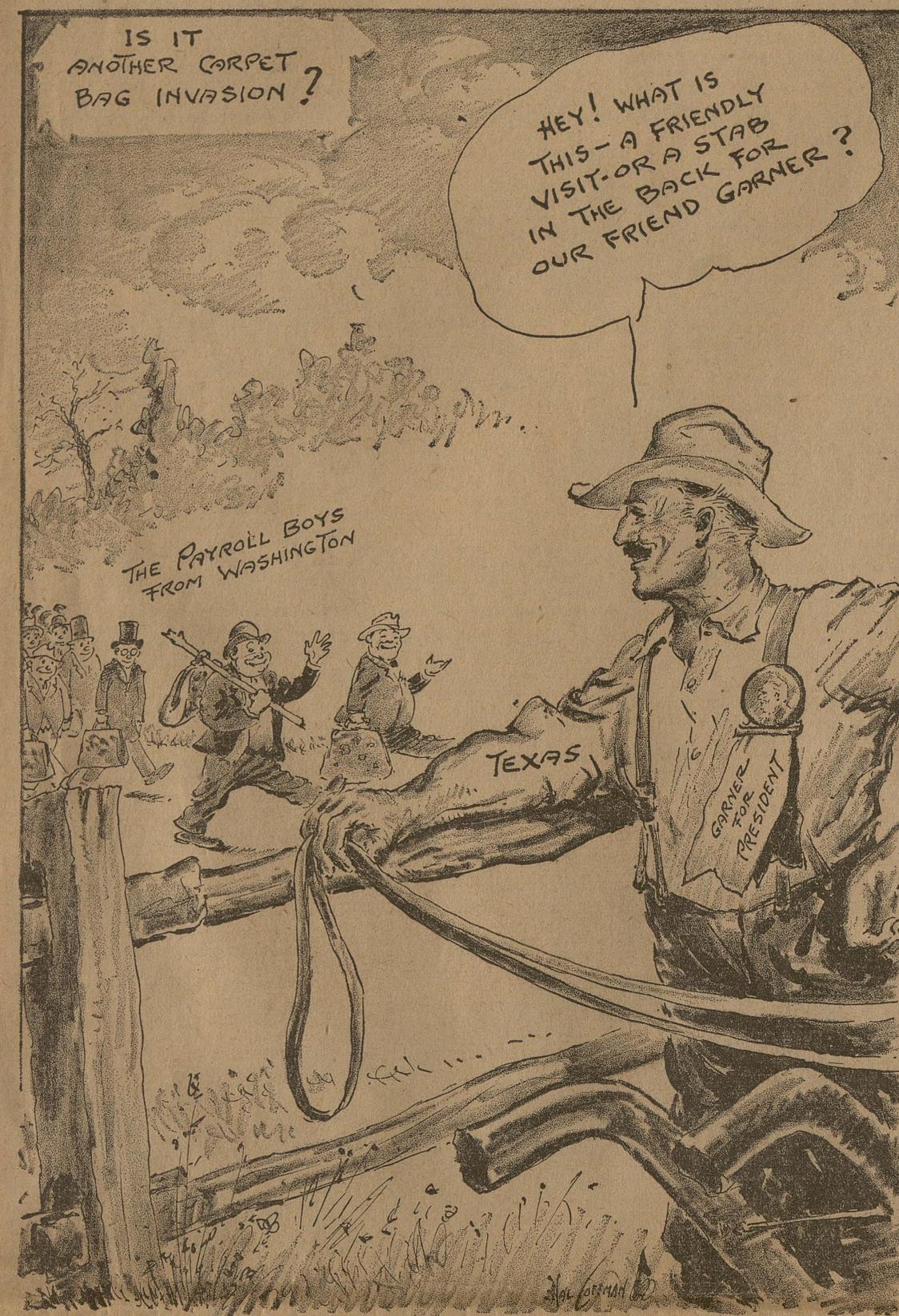
How does Mr. Ickes arrive at the presumption that *The Star-Telegram* is out to "beat Roosevelt"? Mr. Roosevelt has given to nobody—not even to Mr. Ickes, as far as we know—the right or authority to assume that he will be a candidate for a third term. On the other hand, precedent and tradition justify the assumption that the President will not run again, and accordingly that the next Democratic nomination offers a free field to favorite sons who have deserved well of their party and their States. This assumption is inherent in the effort of his fellow Texans to advance the claims of John Garner in his own State.

Thus there is every justification for a Garner campaign in Texas. Texas supporters of John Garner recognize that if the President should desire the nomination, nothing in the world is big enough to stand in his way. Why, then, all the shooting by the third-term advocates in Texas?

Mr. Ickes may be sure of his own motives in lending the weight of his great office to the anti-Garner campaign in Texas, but he can not possibly be all-knowing as to the motives of those Texans who, in 1940, support Mr. Garner under exactly the same circumstances as in 1932—realizing that he is a great Texan, a great liberal Democrat, and a great American, and having no way of knowing who else, if anybody, will be in the running when the convention meets.

Maybe again Mr. Ickes' crystal ball  
(Continued on Next Page).

This cartoon by Hal Coffman, Star-Telegram staff cartoonist, appeared on the editorial page of March 27 along with the editorial that "irritated" Mr. Ickes and provoked the present controversy and exchange of letters. (See opposite page for further details.)



(This is reprinted from The Star-Telegram of March 27, 1940).

## MR. ICKES IRRITATES EASILY AND QUICKLY

(Continued From Preceding Page).

shows him all things, but we have nothing of the sort to guide us. If the Secretary would allow himself to entertain the thought that he might, just once, be mistaken, he might be more tolerant toward the hopeful and prideful view of Texans that John Garner is good presidential timber and has earned the indorsement of at least his own State.

Perhaps we should leave it to the reader to judge Mr. Ickes' charge that this newspaper attempts to exercise dictatorial powers over Texas voters, when all we have done is to warn Texans to keep an eye skinned for rustlers and fence-cutters from outside. We merely try to keep the record straight as to the identity and possible motives of some of our visitors who discover the overpowering attractions of Texas in campaign time. But even "dictation" to Texas voters would come more logically from a Texas source than from an outsider who can see nothing special in the Texas situation but a poll tax.

Again, we must protest, Mr. Ickes bestows altogether too much prominence upon this publisher. He is a private

citizen, whose work for Garner is that of merely a friend. He is not on the Government payroll, has never held public office, and hopes fervently that such will never be his fate—especially since observing the effect of public office on some of his acquaintances.

We have noted elsewhere the fact that Mr. Ickes' "personal" letter followed a course unusual for such correspondence. It is customary, we believe, to wait until a recipient has had time to open a "personal" letter before calling in the newspaper boys. We do not complain, since we admit that our perusal was delayed by the chance of the publisher's absence from the city.

Incidentally, we have a suspicion that we have not yet gathered the full meaning of all that Mr. Ickes, in his irritation, has said about us. We are just country folks down here, who've had few advantages. But if we could get all the ins and outs of the Secretary's letter, understand all the twelve-cylinder words, we likely would ourselves tend to be irritated. And that is a horrid thought, after we have seen what irritation does to a fellow.

## The Cause of It All

(The following is the editorial, headed the "Charge of the Light Brigade," which seems to have provoked the controversy. It is reprinted from the March 27 edition).

PERHAPS many Texans have been struck lately by the sudden rise in this State's popularity on the itineraries of the traveling Master Minds out of Washington. A flock of the boys are either here, on the way, or coming soon, each preceded by a skirmish line of deployed press agents, and each bringing a full book of INSTRUCTIONS TO TEXANS ON HOW TO VOTE. It is an inspiring sight, clouded only by recollections of a similar golden period in Texas' earlier political life, when shoals of visitors from the national capital ushered in what became known as the Carpetbagger Era.

First one thing, then another, is given as ostensible reason for the turning of official eyes Texasward. The inimitable Mr. Ickes, sometimes termed the hatchet man of the Hop-happy Tong, wants to

see with his own eyes whether the Texas oil fields are really big enough to justify all the labor he has put into the effort to take production control out of the hands of the State into those of his own department of the Federal Government. By a happy coincidence, a bushwhacking detachment from Austin will be on the move in the direction of Fort Worth at about the same time and these will temporarily detour to Kilgore, so as to assure a good showing of horny-handed applause when the secretarial foot touches Texas soil.

After a few conferences at Kilgore, the boys will form a caravan and roll on down to Austin by way of Fort Worth, where there will be some more conferences. Then they will be joined by reinforcements from Washington, marching in the train of FWA Carmody, for some more conferences. These presumably will continue until the whole outfit gathers round a damsite on the Colorado, where Colonel Carmody will give a dam the name of Congressman Lyndon Johnson, or that of a Central

Texas mayor whose distinction lately has consisted chiefly of willingness to act as field agent of a Washington cabal for giving Texas a political black eye.

Capping the procession, a tentative date has been arranged for Secretary Hull, who will make a speech. It is to be hoped that he will be able to explain to Texas the special virtues of his Venezuelan oil treaty by which Texas oil producers are placed at the mercy of several Eastern major oil companies, or those of the projected Argentine treaty through which the eminent Tennesseean attempted the same service on behalf of Texas cattle raisers.

Following the Austin ceremonies and conferences, the foraging party will move on to Houston, where some more conferences are scheduled for getting into high gear the movement, begun tentatively at Fort Worth. Then finally there will be a grand supreme conference at Austin, expected to sign, seal and deliver the contract.

And what, gentle reader, might that contract be?

Nothing more nor less than the betrayal of Texas pride, Texas loyalty and Texas common sense.

The boys from Washington are down here for the purpose of inducing Texas to put a knife in the back of the Garner campaign.

Texans—that is, normal Texans who are not dazzled by the fleshpots of federal patronage—look upon the candidacy of Vice President Garner as presenting an opportunity which their state pride and their individual self-respect demand be developed to the utmost. It is unthinkable that Texas should fail or refuse to employ every endeavor to further the candidacy which offers to the State the first opportunity it has had to give a chief executive to the Nation. The so-called third-term issue is not a factor. Texas is entitled to presume that President Roosevelt will not be a candidate for the nomination, and in that presumption to devote its energies to the cause of its outstanding contribution to national public service.

Normal Texans are unable to understand those calling themselves Texans who go about urging Texas to desert Garner and to weasel out of its duty to stand by its own. It is easy enough to appreciate the anxiety of some of the visiting gentlemen who wish to give the Garner campaign a death blow at the start by inducing the candidate's home State to fail to instruct its delegates to the nominating convention. Those gentlemen are interested chiefly in Texas' 43 votes in the convention. Like the Carpetbaggers of the late Sixties, whom they resemble in the nature of their interest in the State, they want to get something out of Texas, not in this instance to bring anything—either honor or advancement—to the State.

If we look a bit deeper into current and scheduled events, we may be able to appreciate also the anxiety and eagerness of the boys who are running about the country dedicating things and conferring right and left, presumably on expense accounts to be paid by the taxpayers. They are naturally disturbed by the prospect of losing their place of power and emolument. They know that if John Garner gets into the White House, with his proved business judgment and his native horse sense, there will ensue a great exodus from the feed trough.

That is an eventuality viewed with utter horror by the dedicatory gentlemen, and to prevent it they will do their best, while dedicating Texas dams, to damn Texas with the brand of traitor and renegade.

In the instance of the other Carpetbag invasion, there were few Texans who fell for the traps baited by the invaders. If Texas has not deteriorated as a land of independence and self-respect, if Texans have not lost their ability to detect a con game at the start, there will be still fewer this time.

## Germans Claim 75 Allied Planes Downed

BERLIN, April 29—Members of the German pursuit squadron on the Western Front have shot down 75 enemy planes, chiefly in aerial encounters over French soil, the commander of a German air squadron declared in an interview published by German newspapers Monday.

The commander declared the squadron had shot down two French bombers, 17 reconnaissance planes and 31 pursuit planes as well as two French balloons.

Britain, he declared, has lost six bombers, three reconnaissance planes and 11 pursuit planes "among others."

## District Endeavor Will Hold Convention in March

The Fort Worth District Christian Endeavor Union will hold its 1941 convention at First Presbyterian Church March 7 to 9.

Dates and location of the session were selected at a district council meeting Sunday. A committee composed of Misses Margaret Bubar, Ruth Wilhelm and Barbara Harrison was appointed to arrange a "mock convention," to be held at Magnolia Avenue Christian Church June 7. The rally will stimulate interest in the fiftieth annual convention of the Texas Christian Endeavor Union in Dallas June 20 to 23.

Steamer Sunk by Mine. LONDON, April 29 (AP).—An unidentified steamer of about 3,000 tons struck a mine and sank Sunday between the Swedish coast and the Danish Island of Sjaelland, Reuters, British news agency, reported Monday from Stockholm.

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