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Carter-Ickes Feud Continues At Merry Pace Through Mail

⁹⁰ FORT WORTH—(INS)—Amon G. Carter, publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Monday answered the attack on him by Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes with a point-by-point refutation of Ickes' statements.

Ickes distributed to Washington newspapermen Friday a letter to Carter, marked "personal," in which he assailed the publisher for editorially supporting John Nance Garner for the presidency.

"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," Carter said in the letter which was couched in humorous style throughout.

"... 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 Greely of Texas.' This is like the darkey who was asked by the white man if he had change for a 10-dollar bill, who replied, 'no, boss, I ain't, but I sho' do appreciate the compliment.'"

The publisher said his answer was delayed first, because he was not in Fort Worth when Ickes saw fit to release the "personal" letter to the press, and second, because he had to obtain help to understand just what all those 12-cylinder words in your letter meant."

"I am sure you do not really subscribe to the theory which you seem to advocate in your letter—that because an official has been right once, he must, perforce, be acknowledged to be right at all other times," said the letter. "... Assisted, as you say, by the full power of the administration, you did a good job in helping Texas with its oil problems. . . But I must respectfully point out that we do not necessarily need the same kind of help . . . in respect to political problems in Texas at the moment."

"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. . . ."

"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 cooperating with municipalities in constructive building progress for the benefit of a community as a whole, and it is a revelation to me to find out otherwise. . . ."

"You stated that when President

Roosevelt shall have been reelected in November that I with 'other such "leaders"' will be the first to hie to the pie counter. Frankly, if the President is reelected, he will be my President the same as yours, and if there be pie counters 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."

Carter dismissed Ickes' charges that he and his "associates" had sent carpetbaggers into Wisconsin and Illinois by pointing out he had no connection with the Garner-for-President committee.