



ROCK ISLAND, ILL., ARGUS  
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### The One True Faith.

Honest Harold Ickes is a political fanatic who is ever ready to break a crusader's lance with infidels and heretics who oppose the one true faith. Marching to the stirring bars of Roosevelt Forever, Mr. Ickes headed a charge of the illumination brigade to Texas, where the third-termers wanted to win delegates to the Democratic convention away from Vice President Garner.

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The Fort Worth Star-Telegram editorialized:

"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. . . . 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. . . .

"Those gentlemen are interested chiefly in Texas' 46 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."

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Mr. Ickes wrote the publisher, Amon G. Carter, a long letter in which he said:

"I have gone previously 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. . . . 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. . . .

"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."

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And so the Texas publisher replied:

"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 cooperation 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. . . .

"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."

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There is no object in our printing parts of this interesting correspondence, except to give you another touch of that "Gone With the Wind" atmosphere. "The south asks no quahtuh, suh," we can hear Colonel (we suppose he is one) Carter saying. "Let the pee-pul rule," retorts Mr. Ickes.

We do have one incidental purpose, however. The Texas newspaper professes to be at a loss to understand Mr. Ickes' deep irritation. Perhaps we can explain that, for Mr. Ickes has one thing in common with the dictators whom he sincerely hates—he considers opposition to the president, however mild, to be wicked and treasonable.

Here is what Secretary Ickes said over the radio recently:

"Anything you do at this time to shake the confidence of the great mass of the American people in either the president or the national government is a sin against free enterprise, individual liberty, political democracy and your own self-interest. NO MATTER ON WHAT YOU MAY DISAGREE WITH HIM, he is now a symbol of confidence whose loss of symbolic value would now make all agreements and disagreements utterly important."

Publisher Carter has always supported President Roosevelt, but he has sinned in Mr. Ickes' eyes by backing Mr. Garner. The Texas paper, you see, is trying to destroy Mr. Roosevelt's "symbolic value."

Mr. Ickes sees himself as a Greek bearing gifts. Mr. Carter may remember that when you wrestle legendary Greeks, they change their form. Hercules once wrestled a man who changed to a bull and then to a serpent.

Mr. Ickes despises Hitler, but the two men are alike in their dislike of skeptical citizens. And yet a reading of Suetonius' lives of the Caesars shows us that the only difference between a good tyrant and a bad one is time.