

A Second Open Letter to Sam Rayburn

Mr. Speaker:

Speaking as and for Texans defrauded by the extraordinary decision in the tidelands case, The News one week ago requested that you use the powers of your office to bring to the floor of the House of Representatives of Congress the bill proposed to correct the injustice of an unreasoning or arbitrary Supreme Court. This measure will quitclaim the title to the offshore lands to the states that in reality own them.

To repeat from that letter, The News is informed that a majority of the committee to which that bill has been referred is ready to report it out favorably and that a decisive majority of the House is ready to vote approval. Appearance of the bill awaits a green signal from you.

You have been praised locally, Mr. Speaker, as having thought ahead of the court, ahead of the President, ahead of Congress, with having realized what Texas has lost and with having fathered the plan under which Texas will receive revenue "not only from the three-league strip but from all the oil produced on the continental shelf." The News has not heard you make that claim. The News and Texas would be loath to believe that any Texan is a quitter until he so asserts himself. And to accept or put faith in the proposed "compromise," Mr. Speaker, is to quit.

What Texas is fighting for, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is its just title to its offshore lands. It is that which has been taken from it.

At Bonham within the past week, you stated that the O'Mahoney bill would be passed by the Senate and brought over to the House where you will see that it is amended properly. But the O'Mahoney bill is the compromise measure. It does not relinquish title.

In your own House still rests in committee the quitclaim bill. You can bring that bill to the floor, Mr. Speaker; and, to repeat, you only can do it.

—THE DALLAS NEWS.