

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

January 31, 1937.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Inasmuch as, in the past, I have sent you innumerable editorials from The Star-Telegram endorsing some phase of the Administration's activities, I feel it my duty to send you a copy of the first of the opposite character. Not that it will make any particular difference to you, but merely for the purpose of keeping the record straight. Hence, the enclosed editorial opposing Texas' ratification of the Child Labor Amendment.

I do not flatter myself that the editorial will have any particular effect. Sentiment for ratification is far too strong and the weight of any recommendation you may make too great for one Texas newspaper, or several, to change the current. My views may be wrong. They even may be extreme. None of the consequences pictured might eventuate, but without some assurance that we might have you always at the helm or a successor, if possible, like you, I would not wish to see any Congress given such sweeping power on the theory that it might never be used.

Perhaps my own boyhood experiences, just as your wider observation and great humanitarian spirit, are responsible for my deep seated convictions on the subject. Incidentally, through necessity, I was compelled to commence making my own way when I was eleven years of age and I know that had there been such laws then, I would have, no doubt, been committed to some public institution. Perhaps some folks will agree the country would have been just as well off and there may be others so unkind as to say that I perhaps belong in one now. But, nevertheless, be that as it may, I can not help feeling that no normal, healthy boy or girl, who needs or desires to work, should be denied such an opportunity; and, there are ample avenues for their employment in no sense "child labor", as the term is generally understood.

My own boy, for example, during the past six

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

-2-

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

years, has sold newspapers on the street, delivered a route and filled the position as one of our office boys. My idea in having him work, part of the time he is out of school on vacation, is for the purpose of making something out of him, impressing upon him just how hard dollars are to acquire - hence an appreciation of their value. While I hope to provide him with better advantages than were afforded his Dad, at the same time I feel the experience will be a valuable acquisition to his future business career; that youngsters of his age are far better off devoting their time to clean, wholesome work than idling it away during the summers merely for pure enjoyment. After all, idleness has been the cause of many youngsters falling by the wayside.

Naturally, I have no desire to burden you with a long oration on child labor as I am sure you have thought it out from your point of view; and, I accord you the same right to your views that I hope you will be generous enough to accord me. As to the real serious child labor question, sweat shops, over work and under pay, this condition, where it exists, is an outrage that should be stopped at once. I feel that I possess just as much human feeling for my fellow-man as anyone; but, it still occurs to me, if I may be permitted to say so, that it should be purely a state matter which, with the necessity arising, each state should remedy. I just can not keep from having the old fashioned idea that the raising of our children should not be left within the province of the whims of some particular Congress.

Our support of the Administration and all you advocated has been so nearly 100% in every respect that I, naturally, regret sincerely the necessity for our views as expressed in the Star-Telegram editorial. In the past, where such has involved a radical change in our views or reversal in our newspaper policy, we have been able to make it because of our appreciation of the fact that a grave emergency called for heroic remedies, because of my personal admiration for you and the soundness of your objectives, as well as my firm conviction through the inspiration you have provided and the measures you have inaugurated that we would pull out. But, this is one thing I find myself unable to change. My personal views are so deep seated and the paper's stand so well established that to do so would seem to me stultification for both. I am sure that one of your convictions and

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

-3-

the courage to stand for them at all times will understand this in another. But there is no justification for burdening you further. I merely differ honestly on one piece of legislation. My views as to your general program are unchanged, my admiration and affection undiminished.

I hope the Birthday Balls proved more successful than ever. The Warm Springs Foundation is a great institution. You have made it possible, having devoted so much of your time, money and energy in its behalf.

With full appreciation of the limited time in which you have to do so many important things, I beg your indulgence in this unusually long letter.

With best wishes, I am,

Most sincerely,

AGC.KD

O

P

Y