

July 6, 1942.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

First, I trust you will pardon the presumption on my part in writing and bothering you concerning the matter of a rubber reclaiming plant in Fort Worth. I have no interest in the Southwest Rubber Reclaiming Corporation and no one connected with it has asked me to intercede in behalf of its application to W. P. B. for \$500,000 to build a rubber reclaiming plant.

After reading the testimony in Washington concerning this project, on my initiative, I had one of our reporters investigate the facts and report his findings to me. Following this, I conferred with Harold A. Sims and B. B. Stone of this city for additional information. I found Mr. Sims an experienced business man, who incidentally was in the last war and whose two sons, one 19 years old, are both in this one, had put in several months investigating the supply of scrap rubber in the Southwest. Mr. Sims located all necessary equipment that could be purchased and experienced men who could be employed to set up and operate the plant, and sometime in January of this year filed application for funds, since which time he has been sent from one bureau to another and it appears he has met opposition in all of them. Mr. Sims further states he has complied with every requirement and patiently met and overcame every objection, but still no reclaiming plant for Fort Worth. It is his opinion the big Eastern junk dealers are determined that no rubber reclaiming plant will be built in the Southwest and the hearings before the Senate and House investigating committees tend to confirm that opinion.

If the red tape and opposition involved could be eliminated, an end put to the bickerings and the proper authorities would at once grant the Southwest Rubber Reclaiming Corporation's application for funds to build its proposed plant, it would be of

tremendous benefit to the tire shortage that confronts the country.

There is sufficient scrap rubber in the Southwest, probably in Texas alone, to keep a plant running for years and it would have been in operation for two months if the application had been promptly granted. It does not seem sound reasoning that our overtaxed railroads should be shipping this scrap to the junk dealers in the East, at Government expense, to be processed there, as is now contemplated, instead of processing it here where the raw material exists.

This is a small matter to take up with you personally, Mr. President, but I am convinced that it deserves some action. In these serious times, it does not help the public morale for the bureau officials to attack the integrity of Fort Worth citizens, as an excuse for not financing their proposed rubber reclaiming plant, and then be forced to publicly retract their charges with the explanation that they had found their information incorrect. I feel sure they could have found out the truth about at least some of these Fort Worth men by asking Jesse Jones, Sam Rayburn, Tom Connally, Fritz Lenham or other Texans in Washington.

One of the detrimental things in connection with the scrap rubber campaign is the lack of being properly organized at the time it was given to the public. We have thousands of pounds of rubber stacked up at the various filling stations and no one seems to know where or how they can dispose of it. Even our Chamber of Commerce has been unable to ascertain from the four big rubber scrap dealers when and how they can ship the rubber collected. As a result this has discouraged the dealers as well as the public.

If there has been any deliberate attempt by anyone to retard this program the responsible individuals should be placed in the same category with the eight German saboteurs who have been recently apprehended by the F.B.I. and shot at Sun rise. In these times there is no place for anyone - no matter what position he might occupy - to interfere with the defense program in any phase.

Again, pardon the length of this letter. I realize you are busy and you have my sympathy as well as that of every red blooded American in this country. We are all praying that you will have the strength and the stamina to carry on the big job you have well under way.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

AGC.KD