

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1942

Dear Amon:

At the President's direction, your letter regarding cotton acreage allotments was referred to the Secretary of Agriculture and he advises as follows:

"There is no provision in the National farm program for allotting to farms in any State the unused acreage from other States. Yet the Department of Agriculture has carefully considered the petition from West Texas both with respect to the reapportionment of unused allotments and the production needs of agriculture for the Nation's war effort.

"In carrying on the war more long staple cotton is needed, and farmers are being encouraged to increase plantings of adapted varieties. However, there is now about a two year's supply of short staple cotton on hand. An increased cotton allotment to West Texas or other areas, if possible under the program, would only add to the present surplus.

"To meet our war needs all available land, labor, and equipment should be put to its best use. We need more food products to feed our soldiers and to maintain adequate diets for those at home. Dairy products, meat, eggs and vegetable oil crops are more urgently needed than cotton at this critical time.

"The Department of Agriculture is encouraging greatly increased production of heavy oil-bearing crops, such as peanuts and soybeans, in areas where they are now produced. Peanuts produce about three times as much oil per acre as cotton, and soybeans almost twice as much. Our supply of vegetable oils from the Far East has been cut off since the war and peanuts and soybeans for oil are needed to offset this shortage.

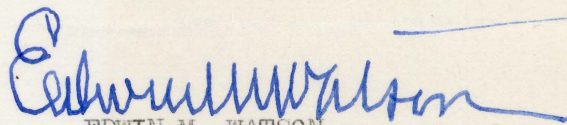
"Important food and feed production goals have been accepted by the farmers of the Nation. West Texas is ideally suited to the production of many vitally needed war crops, and the farmers of that area will make a definite contribution toward winning the war by continuing their effort to meet all production goals."



Mr. Amon Carter -- #2.

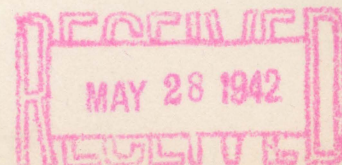
With all best messages and warm personal regards,  
I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edwin M. Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

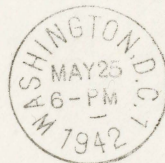
EDWIN M. WATSON  
Secretary to the President

Amon G. Carter, Esq.,  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram,  
Fort Worth, Texas.



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