

Fort Worth, Texas
May 14, 1942

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

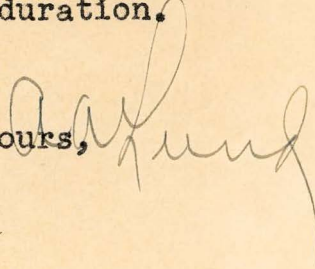
Dear Mr. Carter:

Appreciate very much your allowing me to discuss this subject with you today, as we all know how busy you are.

In attached have tried to cover briefly the situation, as I see it, and hope that you will conclude that our case is worthy of your consideration.

I would certainly appreciate any suggestion you might have for any further steps that I might take to further our objective of keeping this investigation out of Texas for the duration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. G. Carter", written in dark ink over the typed name "Very truly yours,".

From June 3, 1941 to April 6, 1942 Armour and Company or its subsidiaries, and executives of other meat packing firms, have been indicted many times for alleged violation of the Anti-Trust laws. None of these cases have been tried. Indictments have been returned at Chicago, Omaha, St. Joe, Missouri, Oklahoma City, Denver, and San Francisco. Seventeen individuals who are executives or employes of Armour and Company are named in the indictments. These indictments range from Mr. George Eastwood, President, and cover Vice-Presidents, Live Stock Buyers, and Department Managers.

We believe that because of the fact that Government attorneys have asked our Chicago office to furnish the names of certain parties at Fort Worth, that the investigation will proceed to this city.

We, of course, appreciate that it is perfectly proper that should there be evidence of wrong doing, that it is the duty of Government bodies to make such an investigation, and we know that we have nothing to fear from such an investigation. We feel at this time, however, that it would be most inopportune to ask for an indictment before a Federal Grand Jury of employes of Armour and Company and Swift and Company at Fort Worth, and feel that any such investigation and any subsequent trial should be postponed until after the war, and all evidence available now would be equally available at that time.

Such an investigation at this time would create in the minds of a great many people a deep suspicion toward the packing interests that would not be erased, even though the subsequent trial would prove the charges unjust.

Such investigation, indictments, and trial would seriously hurt the Fort Worth live stock receipts which, in turn, would have a definite effect on all business interests in the city. The competition

of the growing live stock markets at San Antonio, Houston and Dallas have already affected the receipts and this investigation would contribute to a further decline.

The Packing Plants at this time are busily engaged in preparing food products, not only for our armed forces, but also for FSCC purchases, to supply the civilian population of our allies. The executives and employes of all meat packing companies are spending practically all of their time and strength in meeting the unusual and increased demands of the Government for food products. Their time and their effort in this essential work should not for one moment be diverted by Government investigations, suits and prosecutions under the Anti-Trust law.

All of the packing companies and their executives are today in most part under the direct or indirect regulation and control of the Government. Prices of practically all products have been fixed under the Price Control Act and every day they are becoming more controlled in their activities by Government supervision and regulation, as the need day by day grows for increased food production in our Country's war effort.

The time and energy of the Packing companies and their officials should be devoted to the war effort first and last. In this connection our President has so wisely said "In other words, we shall give our attention to the first things first." Vice-President Wallace and Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, have emphasized the necessity for greater food production, and R. M. Evans, Administrator of the Agriculture Adjustment Administration, after a recent visit to Great Britain, said "But despite all the farmers of England are able to do for themselves, and despite all the rationing, the British say frankly 'Cut off American food tomorrow and Great Britain is a thing of the past,' they couldn't get through the winter."

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation is calling on the packing industry for tremendous quantities of product. They have notified us that their requirements will be 40% or more of all Pork, and 67% of all Lard, produced under Federal inspection. Most of this product requires special preparation, cure, pack, and handling. It must be handled at a time when delays in obtaining equipment and material are unavoidable, and when skilled labor in adequate numbers is difficult to obtain.

In addition to the FSCC requirements, the packers are, of course, busily engaged in shipments of food to our armed forces, and the officials of the companies are in almost constant conference with representatives of various branches of the Government concerning the details of the tremendous unusual tasks they are called upon to perform at this time, and they are getting the job done in first class fashion.

It would be too bad to have a monkey wrench thrown into this delicate machinery by Anti-Trust investigations at this time.

The employes of Armour and Company at Fort Worth have signed up to purchase War Bonds on the pay roll deduction plan almost 100%, as near as it can be accomplished with fluctuating crews, and these deductions will average 10% of the weekly salaries, and I do not believe that there is a more patriotic, earnest group of people in this country. To have myself and others subjected to an investigation and indictment at this time would be most disheartening. I have personally tried to do my part in civic work and, as you know, was President of the Chamber of Commerce last year, and am still connected with civic work in many ways, and I, personally, feel that an indictment would destroy my usefulness in that respect, and in a manner of speaking - bring discredit upon our city.

Perhaps the indictments in the Northern markets mentioned above are already in the mill and are too far advanced to be stopped, but we most definitely feel that extension of this prosecution should be stopped, and that it should not be permitted to come to Texas, particularly at this time when Texas people are making such a great contribution to the winning of the war.