

A DISCUSSION OF OLD SPANISH TRAIL QUESTIONS
September 8, 1922

TO

J A Trotti, Mayor, Lake Charles, La
Herbert Bayliss, Gen. Mgr. Association of Commerce, Lake Charles
Frank Smith, Editor American-Press, Lake Charles
Edgar Miller, Miller Bros., Lake Charles

1 I want to get Louisiana into this Old Spanish Trail work, and I think you also feel the same way. We want and need you, for this is a big, and at times a heart-breaking work. I never have quite understood why Louisiana has kept out of the fold, but I have always had faith in the people there. Every trip I have made in Louisiana has shown an undercurrent of interest. It probably is simply up to some of us to try to give the right sort of leadership.

2 This is intended to be a comprehensive review of conditions in the hope that out of it we may find ground whereby we can get work accomplished in your state.

3 First, let me say we have had in financial support from Louisiana just \$22 00 during the whole period of active administration the past three years. We have spent in several attempts to interest Louisianians about \$450 00 directly, and have issued a Louisiana Number of the OST Magazine, and of course Louisiana has had the benefit of all administrative work, which has cost many thousands of dollars.

4 Texas has put up nearly \$20,000 00 Mississippi has just underwritten her 1922 quota of \$2000 00 Alabama has paid her 1922 quota of \$5,000 00 Florida is ready and they want us there now. Pensacola chamber of commerce has by unanimous vote agreed to secure and pay her quota of \$1,500 00, then the West Florida towns will all follow. In Alabama and Mississippi all the civic and luncheon clubs are backing the work, and in Florida they too are ready and waiting Pensacola's lead.

5 It is this sort of thing that has kept this work going and growing

6 We should get into Florida now, but if I can help I will help Louisiana to be next. For one thing, it is beginning to be difficult to maintain the national unity of this work. The sections that are supporting are beginning to say that no more of their money shall be spent in sections not supporting. Good members are refusing to renew..

7 I am satisfied that one trouble in Louisiana has been the highway promoters that have "worked" those towns. The Pershing and the Miss. Scenic projects, I know, have hurt OST interests. Now a "Lone Star Highway" outfit is planning to "work" the section from Lake Charles to beyond Houston, Texas, then try to work down to Brownsville. When I was last there promoters were "organizing" a Lone Star Highway thru So. Alabama and So. Georgia, then Jacksonville stopped them.