

September 1, 1922

THE EASTERN SITUATION

Last Monday I published the enclosed in the EXPRESS

What I didn't publish was this:

Instead of a bunch of solicitors eating up money I taught the chambers of commerce, the auto clubs, Rotary, Kiwanis, Civitan, Optimists and others, that this highway was their highway and if they wanted the work to go on THEY must see that the people financed it.

All these organizations from Pensacola to New Orleans accept this. Six civic presidents in Mobile met me and pledged me to lead a two day tour to the Louisiana state line, while I came to San Antonio. August 22, 23 all the LEADERS of all the towns gathered together, and also went with one another on the tour. Newspaper reports (now being put in a scrap book) show it was two days of remarkable work.

Senator Pat Harrison has introduced in the Senate a resolution for the War Department to report on all bridges needed. He will fight that thru.

As to finances, all towns underwrote their quota for OST expenses. This money is now going in an eastern bank. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce of Pensacola has voted to raise \$1500 and other West Florida towns will follow that lead. These are not mere promises but "paper good at the bank" as one New Orleans paper put it.

Moreover, all eastern expenses since January 1 are paid. No bills are due. ~~\$1000~~ \$795 were sent to San Antonio, and the Washington work was paid by the East, not a dollar of help coming from the San Antonio Headquarters.

That's the Eastern situation--financed and with their acknowledged *leaders* awaiting our continued leadership.

H B A
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