

COPY OF LETTER FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF TELEGRAM THAT J.W.FRANCIS HAD CASHED BAD CHECK FOR \$200 00

IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT FRANCIS WAS SENT WESTWARD BY JOHNSTON AND COLP AND THE WEST WAS CIRCULARIZED IN HIS BEHALF BY THEM AFTER I HAD STOPPED HIM IN THE EAST WHERE HE PASSED A BAD CHECK FOR \$50 00 AND HAD LEFT UNPAID PERSONAL ACCOUNTS. I BELIEVE IT IS ALSO TRUE THERE WERE BAD CHECKS PASSED IN SAN ANTONIO BUT HAVE NOT YET TRIED TO DETERMINE THE FACTS RESPECTING THIS.

MR. ATKMAN IN HIS REPORT SHOWS HE COULD NOT FIND ANY CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS TO PROTECT THE OST RESPECTING THE MONEYS ~~HE~~ EXPECTED TO OBTAIN IN THE NAME OF THE OST. THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT MONEY EXPECTED FROM THESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WAS INTENDED TO BENEFIT JOHNSTON AND FRANCIS JUST AS IT IS KNOWN THAT JOHNSTON AND COLP HAD A PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTEREST IN SENDING SHURVEE OUT AGAIN AND CONTINUING THE 75% COMMISSION AND THAT JOHNSTON HAD A PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTEREST IN DELIVERING PRINTING TO AN INCOMPETENT PRINTER.

(COPY)

San Diego, California, October 6, 1922

Mr. H.B. Ayres,  
Old Spanish Trail Association,  
San Antonio, Texas.

My dear Mr. Ayres:

I was very glad to receive your telegram today, and to learn of the active steps you are taking in regard to the Francis matter.

The attached copy of a letter given Francis will cover, I believe, the attitude of our Chamber.

No check was given to Francis from the Chamber of Commerce, as some of his statements of the work already accomplished, and his promise of what the campaign offered, made us feel a little skeptical. As a result, before paying him any money, I wrote to the various chambers of commerce along the Trail to corroborate his statements, and the letters so far received in reply certainly do not corroborate.

On September 18 Francis accompanied me to the Southern Trust & Commerce Bank on some other matters, and while there I introduced him as representing the Old Spanish Trail Association, and our Vice President, Jack C. Thompson, being assured that he was your representative with proper credentials, and knowing thru us that he was planning to establish himself permanently in San Diego, after I had left, upon the request of Francis, cashed a check for him to the amount of \$200 00. This check was dated September 18, made payable to cash, and drawn by J.W. Francis on the Bank of Commerce, Tampa, Florida for the amount of \$200 00.

Following the appearance of Francis before our Board of Directors on September 21, he came to see me on September 22, and we made arrangements to provide him with photographs which he requested, and gave him desk space in the Chamber, and the Chairman of our Publicity Committee went over his credentials. We have not seen Francis since. I have been in communication with the Chambers of Commerce at Tucson, El Centro, Yuma and Los Angeles, in regard to watching for him, and holding him if he visits them, but so far I have received no information. A few minutes ago Mrs. Ward, the proprietor of the Lynn Hotel, visited me, and, altho she makes no definite statement, I gather that she also is out some sum of money. She states that Francis left her for El Centro and Tucson. I have just sent her to confer with Mr. Thompson.