

San Antonio, Texas,
March 4th, 1923

Mr. H. B. Ayres,
Mobile, Alabama.

Dear Harral:-

Am herewith enclosing you original letter from Mr. T. V. Orr of De Funiak Springs. We have made a copy of this for the files as I thought possibly you might want to hold that one temporarily. Also enclosing you copy of my reply.

Well, I will tell you the bad news first. The new bond attorney in the attorney general's department succeeding Judge Dumas is an old friend of mine and was one of my directors when I was secretary of the Texas Good Roads Association. He tells me his department is at my service any time day or night. This is not the bad news, this is the good news. Now comes the bad news. He says he can't approve the Hidalgo County bonds. Now I have been sure of this all along. I believe I told you that I offered my help to the commissioners court and they in a very nice, genteel, diplomatic way, asked me to keep my hands off. But I drew my own conclusion as to why they didn't want any help when I found out a little more about the proposition. The scheme is that a certain bonding company make a test case out of Hidalgo County, carrying it to the Supreme Court if need be, which will tie up Hidalgo County anywhere from two to ten years. I am not inclined to let those politicians put anything over those good people in Hidalgo County and just as quick as the bonding department of the attorney general releases his opinion, which will be within the next few days as soon as he get time to write it, then I shall use my best efforts to get the Hidalgo County people to persuade the Commissioners Court to order district elections, and in the event this can't be done without a law suit, I think I can scare them in to it by scouting the route via Corpus Christi, Kingsville and right down the Gulf Coast line thru Willacy County to Harlingen. The Highway Department will back us on this if we want to put it over in reality. The commissioners court of Jim Wells County has refused to take any action on their bond issue. They haven't prepared any briefs for the attorney general yet and refused to sign a contract with the Highway Department for Federal aid. Judge Perkins and some of the other citizens are contemplating doing one of two things. Trying to force the court to go ahead or bring out a new ticket for county judge and commissioners. They are afraid if they try it in the court that the matter will drag along for a year or two and they don't like the idea of delaying it until the new court can be installed January 1st.

I expected to have had a conference with them next week as my program was to go to the Valley with Commissioner Lambert, but he has been sick in bed for four or five days and the doctor said this morning there wasn't a chance for him to go next week. On account of the rain and freeze we were unable to go to Houston this week and we moved that up to Monday 13th.