

For another thing, the Old Spanish Trail has been routed through to California, as you know, since 1916, and is marked through to California, and I would not suppose any one would now raise the question of the recognition of the Old Spanish Trail in that section. We have over two thousand miles of marked trunklines and tourist routes and in another year will have four thousand miles. It is developing an importance without a parallel, I believe, among the National Highways.

We have always recognized the Bankhead Highway thru there. Senator Bankhead is the Father of national highways. But a policy of encouraging many highways as representing but one route can soon so detract from the individuality and distinction of any of them as to render service and administration almost worthless. We have along the Old Spanish Trail eastward but one name, one administration, one marking -- in this way the people are building up a serviceable administration and tourists are beginning to recognize that such a highway is building from the Atlantic to the Pacific. With these thoughts in mind, it occurs to me that if you and other Arizona friends could be present at this Texas Encampment it would help all of us to get a clear insight into what is going on and the policies we should all agree upon. I know the West Texas people would love to have you present.

You will remember I sent you last week a rough copy of a declaration then in process of formation. I am now enclosing a copy in the language finally agreed upon. All the Senators and Congressmen eastward are signing this declaration. Since my talk with Senator Aghurst I have talked with several of the Western Congressmen and I find they are all somewhat confused by reason of the fact that the promoters of the Lee Highway have been seeking recognition for most of this route west of El Paso. This leads to the thought that this route is without any individuality but is the plaything of any promoter who might come along. The individuality of the highway can be maintained if restricted to the Old Spanish Trail and Bankhead.

Every one recognizes the fact that the automobile traveler will seek the Southern playgrounds at the nearest point, then flow eastward or westward on the OST, Florida and California, with all their fine attractions will then be in competition with the midland sections and Old Mexico, sections just as inviting and newer and more accessible. The people of these midland sections are very industriously building to gather and hold this traffic. The Florida Senators and Congressmen are joining in this declaration for they recognize that travel will drive straight southward when the numerous North and South highways are completed. In my judgment it is to the advantage of Arizona to help build up the prestige of the Old Spanish Trail as a highway reaching from sea to sea.

I know this is your idea hence the frankness of this letter. I shall be sorry if I have to leave Washington without the support of the Western Representatives, but if this must be, my answer is this invitation I am giving you, an invitation I