

March 31, 1922

Dear Dave,-

I have your letter of the 27th. Let me say first this: I have the same friendly belief in the work you do and can do that I always have had. You know how much that has been. My attitude is not changed; I would like to see you go on with the OST work just as you and I have planned. My inclination has not been to charge you with any of the fall-downs in that office or with that for which I hold Dr. Johnston responsible. But I couldn't get any word out of you and I couldn't be sure. And the conditions over there added a hard load to my back while I was lifting the load I was over here. I haven't wanted you to do things that would embarrass you with the "President" while I am away, but I have wanted to know where you stood, and when you didn't reply it gave me a wrong impression. The same friendship and regard I have always given you is still yours.

Now as to finances. I can take care of Percy Tyrrell and the Alamo Btg. Not only that, Dave, but the whole organization can be put on easy street if I can stay out among the people for awhile and have things go properly over there. But I will not put money in Dr. Johnston's hands while he is acting as he is. You once wrote the people down Brownsville way swore by me. Well, they are doing just that over here now. The papers are full. I have not attempted to send you clippings. Editorials are numerous. Every organization here is smilingly at my back. Money comes easily, and it will come for the national organization if things there are restored to their proper status. And I will soon be there now.

Not only this, but calls are coming to me from other sections to come and help. The news of this work here has spread. Moreover those delegates have gone home thrilled with those meetings. I am enclosing the Fairhope paper, the people who have been fighting me because I took the Trail from them and gave it to Daphne, and the people who came to Mobile and made a fuss that first morning. But they went back and published the enclosed story.

Now we have word the bridge engineering force will be here in two weeks. The state engineer has done all he could in a gentlemanly way to oppose this bridge project. This town has found itself.

Sincerely,