

June 12, 1917.

Mr. Charles H. Davis, President,  
National Highways Association,  
"Elmwood", Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mr. Davis:

Your letter of the 7th inst. received and appreciated.

You are probably right, but "Nothing ventured, nothing gained". We could see no harm in going, and we can act with a perfectly clear conscience, because like you, we have no interest in road building or profits growing out of road building, or the manufacture of machinery, supplying of material, or real estate along line of Old Spanish Trail.

Our sole object in trying to get the Old Spanish Trail built is a disinterested one for the good of this part of the country at large. We need good roads, as you doubtless know. Means of communication along the Coast have been most noticeable by their absence.

The writer has lived in New Orleans; has lived on the Mississippi Coast between New Orleans and Mobile, is now living in Mobile, and it seems to him to be absurd that he has been able to get from New Orleans to Mobile in a boat in less time than any automobile has been able to make it yet by about 50%. There is no excuse for this.

The Old Spanish trail is getting on slowly, owing to the fact we have no Field Secretary out on the road, and reason we have no Field Secretary out on the road is because of lack of finances, and because we are not sure the is propitious yet. We could probably raise enough money to put a Field Secretary on the road if we were convinced that it was a good thing, and our idea is that when we send Field Secretary out, he should go out preaching the gospel of maintenance rather than of building and neglect. This is the only reason we are so anxious for the government to build or help build the Old Spanish Trail, because if they do they

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