



TELEPHONE CROCKETT 2808

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January 20th, 1928

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

Dear Herral:-

I returned last night about midnight from the San Diego inspection. We found the people at Simmons and Clegg right in for this route. Then I found we would have 28 miles in Duval County and that Senator Pharr represented about 75 or 80 per cent of the entire county when it comes to political matters. I went down to the Senator's ranch below Benavides, had a two hour conference, and found him opposed to the proposition at first but was for it if it would come thru Benavides direct to Telfurrias. I told him this was absolutely out of the question. He finally agreed to advise me by wire Saturday morning, saying he wanted to talk it over with some of his people first. My opinion is he wants to talk it over with Judge Beurmaster with a view of routing it via Jourdanton, Tilden to San Diego and is this is his scheme it won't hurt the cause a particle. I would regret seeing our friends at Campbellton disappointed more than anything else.

The Jim Wells people will go before the Highway Department Monday and will get an allotment of aid and their work can be started at once. The Highway Commission has agreed the Mathis-Brownville route can stand for the Houston designation regardless of the outcome of the San Antonio division. So the people at Alice are very much delighted and they are now giving the Old Spanish Trail credit and great praise for the fine work along this line.

On account of the severe cold snap the Doctor and myself will have to postpone our trip a few days, but our intentions are to get some money out of Beaumont as quick as possible and get Ft. Bend organized. I haven't had an opportunity to talk with the Doctor since my return. Somebody is going to have to get some money in here in the next ten days and if you know of any way of getting another \$300, let's have it. We are going after Beaumont awfully hard for a thousand.

Feel a little uneasy about Liberty, but here's hoping they will put it over.

Yours of the 17th in which you state that you are running into some serious matters is no surprise to me. You suggest I refer to the map of Alabama with reference to the route across Baldwin County to Pensacola. I would suggest that you put Pensacola on a tourist loop and let the people a little further up in the state have the Main Line even tho it adds a few miles to the distance. It would probably be far better in the long run. Even railroads don't attempt to run in straight lines when it is cheaper to go around, or serves more people,