

Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C. November 16, 1940.

Senator Harry S. Truman, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

Dear Harry:

I have been in Washington since last Wednesday morning and contacted your office the first thing and was told by the young lady that you were enjoying yourself in Hot Springs and were not expected back here until Sunday. Unfortunately, I have to leave for home tonight and will be unable to see you while I am here.

I have been attending a meeting with the Directors of the American Automobile Association and for the past two days have been putting in a lot of time around Clyde Nichols' office. I have been deeply impressed with the thoroughness of Nichols' work and the manner in which he is fighting for our area. He told me this morning that the matter of a sulphuric acid plant and an ammonia plant will probably be settled either Monday or Tuesday of this coming week.

Nichols' office has been doing a vast amount of work to get these two plants in the Tri-State Area where they can manufacture sulphuric acid and ammonia from the coals mined in that district at a less cost than other sections and our coal seems to be superior for the manufacture of ammonia and sulphuric acid.

Nichols, with the help of different railroad engineers and Kenneth Spencer, has compiled a great deal of data on the economics of these basic plants in this area and inasmuch as we have a cotton supply available from both Arkansas and Oklahoma and as sulphuric acid and ammonia and cotton are the principal ingredients of our explosives, it is quite obvious that other industries such as TNT and smokeless powder would follow the location of the ammonia plant and sulphuric acid plant.

As I understand it, once we get the sulphuric plant and ammonia plant, a TNT plant and smokeless powder plant, then it becomes logical to group three or four other so called ammunition loading plants within a radius of 200 to 300 miles. Once this whole family of plants is stretched up and down our area from Nebraska down into Oklahoma, it would create an opportunity for all of our steel plants and machine plants to get the business of forging machine shells and making a multitude of component parts that enter into the whole picture.

Information has been collected from six agricultural colleges in the area showing the

need for cheap fertilizer, so a plant of this kind could be used in peace-time in mixing the ingredients of the products of these plants with the phosphate rock of Arkansas and we could fertilize our farms in the Middle West in a very economical way.

I am advised by "J.C." that there is a strong possibility of this ammonia plant going to Ohio, which would also probably mean the TNT plant, and I believe, Harry, if you, Capper and the rest of the fellows who are interested in our area would back up the presentation that has already been made by Nichols and work with him wholeheartedly on this project, it would mean employment for tens of thousands of men and would give a degree of permanent stability to our area which it lacks at the present time.

During my few days here I gathered that there is a lot of general sympathy with the needs of our part of the country but when it comes down to specific things, the arguments for not splitting management in plants and getting them too far scattered from established centers of industry make it difficult to get much action for an area which, I am sure you and I agree, just from the standpoint of security and national defense, should be a part of the whole preparedness program.

Won't you please do what you can to help out on the matter. I will probably be back here soon and in the near future you and I will have a lot of conversation.

I know Nichols would be glad to come to your office any time and it would be my suggestion that you try to have a conference early Monday morning.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Lou Holland