

2.

As I write this, at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night, it has started raining...hope it continues the rest of the night and all day tomorrow. One of your neighbors from around Stonewall was ~~by~~ today and he said his 40-acres of oats looks mighty fine. ~~Should~~ should get a good yield this year if it rains and other conditions remain favorable. I presume your "farm" also looks good and hope you are blessed with a real bumper crop when harvest or combine time comes around.

I would gladly spend a little time with you some day on the "front veranda" as you mentioned in your letter of Feb. 21st. There are possibly several things I'd like to discuss with you, but preferably alone. I've always enjoyed talking to you and believe you can tolerate my presence, even if I have given you cause, at one time, to get a little jumpy at me.

In one of your letters you mentioned that if there ever was anything you could do for me I should call on you. There isn't anything at this time which I would want as a personal favor other than I'd like to get the complete records, log, of my brother's ill-fated B-17 "Sky Queen" and it's missions in WWII. I have been unable to obtain them, from the airforce, altho I have not made that request within the past several years. At the time I had asked for them, they would not release these records, due to security reasons. I would take this up with you at such a time when you could go into this. The Colonel, who was leading the group on that final mission, turned back while flying over the Eng. channel and my bud, as I understand it from one of the boys who survived, took the lead. That was the furthest mission inland, into the European continent, that had been contemplated up until that particular date. I have reason to believe, altho I was never told by my brother, that he was in the intelligence service at the time. In 1949 I made a trip over to California to visit the parents of one of the boys on his plane, that young man having a very similar name as my brother, Wm. Riedel, and I learned that he ~~had/it~~ was in the intelligence service. There are a number of unexplained and unanswered items I still want to clear up in my mind. If possible, I hope to write a book some day, perhaps several, and one of these will be about my brother.

3.

In referring to your letter of Feb. 18th in which you requested opinions and suggestions on four questions I might say the following:

1. I, helping drought-stricken farmers: the government could perform a real service if it helped those farmers, who, together with ~~their~~ wife and children, live on their place and earn their livelihood on that place. These are the people who constitute the real backbone of America and in them is our strength, our prosperity. All business, small and large, hinges on the prosperity of the farmer, and rancher, those who actually live on their place and try to make ends meet. In times of drouth, such as we have experienced the past several years, these people have a difficult time, indeed; they generally do not have any other income and if the government wishes to help people in distress, as it does for people all over the world, it seems logical that the poor farmer should receive first consideration. Anything he makes, anything he receives, is generally put right back in circulation, and that's what it takes if we want prosperity.

2. Long-range water development and conservation: adopt the program you have advocated and sponsored all along. Continue similar programs on all Texas streams, such as the LCRA; impound flood waters on all major streams, as well as all other smaller streams, in all water-sheds.

3. Rising cost of living: (how to reverse it) that's a big ?. I leave that to a Roger Babson or some college professor. However, it might help, if a limit were set on the acreage a man could buy, and a price on the per acre. Possibly also government control of wages and retail prices on merchandise of all kinds. Getting foreign countries to pay back some of their debts to the U.S. would perhaps help since that could lead to a reduction of the tax load our citizens are carrying.

4. Small business. Small business is like the small farmer. It will take care of itself in most cases if other conditions, such as the prosperity of the small farmer, are normal. Making low-interest rate loans available, for business expansion, for building improvements, remodeling, enlargening, etc., would certainly be a big help.

4.

Well, it's past 12 o'clock now and this letter has gone much too long. But, I believe you wanted a long letter and I hope I haven't taxed your patience. Took one of my electric typewriters home recently and it goes pretty fast, altho I notice quite a number of errors. Fact is, I'm pretty sleepy since we've had some busy days, and weeks. One of our men in the shopp, Eddie Knopp, has the mumps since last week and another worker, Miss Jordan, just came back after recuperating the past five weeks from an operation, for a tumor. My wife was sick and in the hospital for a blood transfusion, but she is hale and hearty again and we are fortunate in that our children and everyone else in the family is ok. Have got lots of work and business in our plant is "rushing." Don't know where it comes from; however, am glad its there!

I was happy to read about your visit to one of the Carolinas and the very fine statement you made with reference to the idea that everyone, north and south, should be ready and willing to give a little as well as "take" a little. That sort of philosophy should appeal to everyone in our country and I'm sure you have endeared yourself just a little more with all your friends, your constituents, as well as with other citizens in all states of our union. Keep up the good work.

Best wishes,

Respectfully yours,

