August 29, 1930.

Governor W. J. Holloway
State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Governor:

I have been requested by Mr. Victor Barnett of the Tulsa Tribune to investigate, through the proper committees of the Chamber of Commerce of this City, the fifteen million dollar Short Time Note Plan for, in a measure at least, employing the unemployed this coming winter, spring and summer, with the idea of advising with you as to the feasibility of calling a special session of the legislature.

The plan as explained to me by Mr. Barnett will be short time notes made by the State at six per cent interest, the money realized from the sales or giving of such notes to be used on the State highway system by the State Highway Commission for grading and drainage purposes only; the labor to be used in the building of such roads to be restricted to those who were shown by the 1930 federal census as citizens of the State of Oklahoma. In view of the constitutional restriction of four hundred thousand dollars, it would be necessary, of course, for the people to change the constitution to allow a loan of this magnitude to be made. Second, it would be necessary for the legislature to agree upon a measure or the submission of the resolution to the people looking to this change and before all of this could be done it is necessary that you, as Governor of the State, believe that it would be practical to call the present legislature into special session for the purpose of considering this plan.

We have discussed this in the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Commerce here and we find unanimously that it would be highly impractical. If the idea of a political design could be removed from this plan now it would still remain impractical for the reasons hereinafter to be set forth, in our judgment. It is not our idea that the plan to build the roads and get the money for them in the manner suggested is impractical for we believe otherwise, but it is the removal of certain obstacles in the way of achieving this object that makes us believe the plan is entirely impractical. The reasons we believe it is impractical are as follows:

First, the government of the State would have to feel morally sure of the success of such a plan before he would be justified in visiting the heavy expense of a special session upon the people. We doubt if he can bring himself to this moral certainty. Second, the legislature which is almost a Republican house and a Democratic senate and which in the past sessions both regular and extraordinary went into certain things that left bitterness and ill feeling rampant among the membership of both branches of the legislature. Many of those constituting both branches of the legislature have been retired by the recent primaries and are as a matter of fact at this time neither under obligations to parties or government. We seriously doubt that under this peculiar circumstance that would surround the legislature that any number of the kind suggested could get anywhere.

Third, provided it were successful in eliminating from the minds of the people that this is simply a political movement and not an economical, we are of the belief that such a movement would be defeated in the November election no matter what the merit of the proposition might be. If this is not a political measure seeking to advance the interests of certain candidates or certain interests, it would appear to the people generally that the matter should have been brought up prior to the time that anyone was nominated for party leadership in this State and not reserved until after that time.

For the reasons above and other ramifications of these particular reasons, we have concluded that the plan as suggested to us by Mr. Barnett of the Tulsa Tribune is highly impractical and that the hurdles that must be taken before this matter can be brought to a conclusion are insurmountable. Furthermore, the same legislature that would consider it at this time except we called it a bond issue to be retired by the gasoline tax instead of a Short Time Notes which would be retired by gasoline tax. and the present Chairman of the Highway Commission was one most seriously opposed to the plan of voting a large issue for the purpose of completing the highway system of the State in as short time as possible, would be the same legislature that considered it before. This bill was arranged, written and delivered into the hands of some of the legislature by a committee, among whom I was one, drawn from every section of the State. We had earnestly and soberly gone into all the ramifications and mechanics of such a plan but when the same was presented to the legislature they refused to consider the same and their stand was backed up by the present Chairman of the State Highway Commission as being impractical and not for the best interests of roads in this State. It would be difficult, in our minds therefore, to believe that the same legislature could so readily turn a 'flip-flop' and

submit such a proposition to the people of the State of Oklahoma.

Looking into the hardships that would confront such a measure as suggested by the Tribune, we are convinced that the calling of a special session of the legislature by you at this time would be just a waste of time and money and we suggest that you do not call such a session.

Yours respectfully,

President Chamber of Commerce.

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