COPY

ROBERT L. LOWRY
Consulting Engineer
307 West 12th Street
Austin, Texas

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Office Telephone
7-2843

Home Telephone
6-8950

Mr. John G. Laylin
701 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Laylin:

First, my apologies for not getting a reply to you sooner, but I have been out of town a great deal of the time since receipt of your text.

I have read the discussion you have given to the various articles with interest, and it all makes sense to me. I do feel that there is much involved that is of a purely legal nature, in which I could be of no help.

In your recommendations you have come up with something which I think is very important, and which, if you can put it over, will be the greatest stride forward in treaty making in many years. That is your suggestion that a technical organization be perfected to get the factual information first, before the actual negotiations start. Such an approach has proved successful in some of our State Compacts, of which the Pecos River Compact is a prime example. After about forty years of fighting and threatening suit, a complete engineering study of the facts was ordered. Within two years from this decision to get the facts first, a compact had been agreed upon. I know of no other procedure that could have been adopted that could have worked out as successfully in this case, and I am sure that there are many other instances in which it would work just as well.

In fact, the most futile negotiation attempts are those in which neither side knows the facts, and as a result starts out to make a big bluff.

It is my feeling that if it is clearly understood that it is necessary to get the facts first - many needless hours of negotiations could be avoided, and the results would be on a firmer ground, with their chance of enduring being greatly enhanced.

I am sorry we did not have a chance to sit down and discuss some of these matters in Washington. It would have been a pleasure. Maybe we can get together at a later date.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert L. Lowry

RLL:bp