



# Texas

## MID-CONTINENT OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION

311 South Akard • Suite 1800 • Dallas 2, Texas

December 29, 1954

Mr. Henry Hazlitt  
c/o Newsweek  
Newsweek Building  
Broadway and 42nd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Henry:

I am prompted to write you by your recent presentation on "The Right to Work." More particularly my incentive stems from your statement to the effect that:

"At the same time the court has been so fantastically stretching its definition of what constitutes 'interstate commerce,' subject to Federal law, that it has all but annihilated the powers that the Founding Fathers thought they had reserved to the states in the Tenth Amendment. Unless there is a reversal of this trend states' rights will soon be wiped out without the submission of any constitutional amendment by Congress."

As you are undoubtedly aware, the petroleum industry now is engaged in a life and death struggle which grows out of the torturous interpretation put on the Interstate Commerce clause by the Supreme Court in its decision in the so-called "Phillips case." In this decision, the Supreme Court held that the Federal Power Commission had jurisdiction over the field price of gas in violation of the plain intent of the Natural Gas Act of 1938. The industry will seek legislation to clarify this situation.

If you do not have available a file of information on this subject, I would be very happy to furnish it to you, although I rather suspect that with your usual efficiency you have kept up, at least somewhat, with this case and that it will not be necessary to start from scratch to give you the background from the viewpoint of the oil industry.

If you are interested in developing this subject further, I could recommend to you several persons of authority in the petroleum industry from whom you could obtain answers to any questions which occur to you.

### D I S T R I C T V I C E - P R E S I D E N T S

EARL HOLLANDSWORTH, EAST TEXAS      PERRY R. BASS, NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS      JOSEPH I. O'NEILL, JR., PERMIAN BASIN  
V. F. HARRISON, LOWER GULF COAST      R. L. WHELDCK, JR., CENTRAL TEXAS      R. CLAY UNDERWOOD, NORTH TEXAS      J. H. DUNN, PANHANDLE  
WALDO WILSON, UPPER GULF COAST      JOSEPH S. MORRIS, SOUTHWEST TEXAS      J. R. BUTLER, MIDDLE GULF COAST      LESTER CLARK, WEST CENTRAL TEXAS

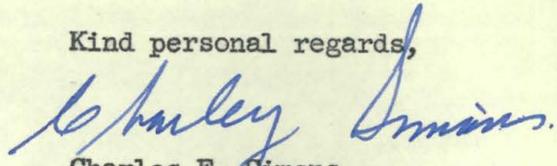
Mr. Henry Hazlitt

-2-

December 29, 1954

Although our correspondence has been rather spasmodic since your appearance before our convention in Fort Worth, I remember it with a great deal of pleasure and have found several occasions where your remarks were very helpful.

Kind personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Simons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C".

Charles E. Simons  
Executive Secretary

CESf1