

1  
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY  
Decatur, Alabama  
March 23, 1935

Copy

Mr. John I. Snyder,  
Director of Land Acquisition Division, T V A,  
Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dear Sir:

From reliable sources I learn that the land owners in the Pickwick Dam area, on both sides of the River, are being organized into an association, the purpose of which is to secure an increased price for their land over the values to be fixed by the appraisers of the T V A.

Those promoting this organization agree to have experts make appraisal of the property of each land owner, and furnish legal services in connection with the negotiations or with the litigation in which the land owner may become involved, the land owner to pay to this agency a certain per cent of the money received over and above the appraisal value as fixed by the T V A Board of Appraisal and Review. The general scheme is along the same lines as that of the Knight organization at Decatur and, in my opinion, the same forces are promoting both movements.

What, if any, action do you wish me to take to offset and overcome the influence of this organization, and to prevent the land owners becoming members?

You have never indicated what part, if any, you expect me to take in the acquisition of the Pickwick Dam lands, nor have you taken me into your confidence regarding your plans for its acquisition.

Last July, when this department was reorganized and the forces increased, you stated to me in a conversation, and also in a letter, that you were placing me at the head of this department, and in the future would have all your dealings with me regarding matters pertaining to the work of this department. In line with your conversation and your letter and at my suggestion, you wrote a memorandum to Messrs. Newman, Underwood and Brockman, and in that memorandum, among other things, stated: "Judge Roulhac has the difficult task of seeing that this coordination is accomplished. He has sole responsibility for the working of the entire Wheeler unit, and you, in your respective capacities, are his lieutenants. In the future my dealings with the Wheeler Division will be entirely through Judge Roulhac."

Your failure to carry out this announced policy has at times been a source of considerable embarrassment to me. Frequently I have found myself out of touch with the work of the department, orders and directions having been given by you direct to other members of this organization. It has made it more difficult for me to do my work effectively and intelligently. I have done the best I could under the circumstances and contributed whatever help the conditions would permit.

Please let me know if you wish me to take any action to combat the influence of those seeking to organize the land owners, or to cooperate with any other department of the T V A in seeking to minimize that influence.

Yours very truly,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

(S)

Allen J. Roulhac

Assistant Director Land Acquisition Division.

AJR-k