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Eric H. Marks

March 17, 1953

Eric H. Marks
Paint Pony Lodge
Show Low, Arizona

Dear Eric:

Your cordial and very much appreciated letter of March eleven has been carefully noted.

While I have no desire to argue with you of all people, I do have to disagree with you a little bit in your defense of what is now going on on U. S. 60.

During the 30's, Arizona invested nine million dollars on 60 between Globe and Show Low. Granted the result was not perfect by today's standards, but it was so much better than we have in other critical sections of the state that there is no comparison.

Take Highway 80 between Sentinel and Gila Bend enroute to Yuma, which is without a doubt the most important new economic asset we have in Arizona today. This route is from 18 to 22 feet wide. It was built in the 20's and is today carrying a traffic count that is approaching 2500 cars a day.

Our failure to build this highway up to standard is costing us tremendously because, while we have dallied, California has built a magnificent four-lane highway from San Diego to Yuma. It is now twenty-miles nearer to San Diego than it is by Phoenix over a beautiful road. As a result, Yuma County's rapidly expanding, wealth-creating, agricultural economy is being siphoned off right under our nose all for the want of a better road to Yuma.

Go north of Show Low! Highway 66 from the New Mexico line to Holbrook is carrying a traffic count in excess of 2500 cars a day, and you know the condition of that road. It, too, was built in the 20's.

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I could add any number of other examples more than justifying the fact that we are tearing up better roads on 60 for less strategic use than we now have in many of the most critical divisions of the state's highway system.

Please don't misunderstand me. You are not to be blamed for your enthusiasm over the possibilities of the county you represent, nor am I condemning you for it. Even so, for the sake of the record, I am stuck with the necessity of being utterly frank in justification of the bitter opposition that has grown up in many sections of the state over what is going on on 60. Our problem is that we simply do not have money enough to do what should be done on all of our key routes. What to do about it, that's the question.

See you soon.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely

Howard Pyle
GOVERNOR

HP/erb