

**Report
of
Special Committee
on
General Grand Chapter**

Please Note:

This subject will be acted upon at the One Hundred and Twenty – Fourth Annual Convocation which will be held in Waco, Texas on Monday, December 3rd. and Tuesday, December 4th., 1973.

THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF TEXAS AND THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER, INTERNATIONAL

D. D. Tidwell

The Royal Arch Degree was first conferred in regular Lodges as a supplement to the Master's Degree or as an additional or side degree. The Ancient Grand Lodge of England, formed in 1751, stressed the Royal Arch Degree and emphasized that all "regular and warranted" Lodges had the right to confer the Royal Arch. Eventually the Royal Arch degree came to be conferred in Chapters appendant to and sanctioned by a regular Craft Lodge.

The premier or so – called Moderns' Grand Lodge of England, formed in 1717, "did not recognize the Royal Arch as a lawful degree and they never sanctioned the conferring of that degree in a Lodge." In spite of this the Royal Arch was popular with the Moderns and a Grand Royal Arch Chapter was formed about 1766 or 1767. The Ancients formed a Grand Chapter about 1771.

The Royal Arch Degree was conferred in Fredericksburg, Virginia on December 22, 1753, and soon thereafter in Boston and Philadelphia. In 1759 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania formed the first Grand Chapter in America and this body operated until 1824 under the authority and sanction of the Grand Lodge.

Delegates from three Chapters met in Convention at Boston in 1797 and issued a call that resulted in the organization of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in 1798 at Hartford, Connecticut. The name Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America was changed in 1799 to General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Six Northern States of America and in 1806 to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States.

From the very beginning of the General Grand Chapter it has held to the principle that "No Grand Lodge of Master Masons can claim or exercise authority over any Convention of Royal Arch Masons, nor can any Chapter, although of standing immemorial exercise the authority of a Grand Chapter." This in spite of the fact that every Chapter that participated in the formation of the General Grand Chapter was

created directly or indirectly by warrants issued by a Lodge, Grand Chapter or a Chapter.

This conflict of views between the Ancients and Moderns, and Pennsylvania and the General Grand Chapter, in regard to the proper authority in constituting Royal Arch Chapters forms the basis for the first misunderstanding between the Royal Arch Masons of Texas and the General Grand Chapter.

An attempt to form a Lodge in Texas in 1828 failed. In March, 1835, five Masons of Brazoria petitioned the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a Lodge. While months passed by before the Dispensation for Holland Lodge was received, Samuel M. Williams, prominent associate of Stephen F. Austin, went to New York on business. While there he received the three Craft degrees on the same night, November 21, 1835 in Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2. Four days later on November 25th, he received all the Chapter Degrees in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8 and six days later on December 1, 1835 he received the Orders of Knighthood in Morton Commandery No. 4. A week later, at the Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter in Washington, D. C., the Grand High Priest of New York, T. B. Van Vechten "on behalf of Companions Samuel M. Williams, James H. C. Miller, and others associated with them, then made an application for a charter to constitute a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Texas..." The next day, December 9, 1835, a charter was granted to San Felipe de Austin Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 to be located at San Felipe de Austin, Texas.

A similar application was presented the same evening to the General Grand Encampment of the United States for an Encampment of Knights Templar at San Felipe de Austin Encampment No. 1.

While Samuel N. Williams was securing charters for the first Chapter and Commandery in Texas, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana granted a dispensation to Holland Lodge at Brazoria. The Lodge was organized on December 27, 1835 and a number of meetings held the next two months. The invasion of Texas by Santa Anna and the Mexican army followed by the fall of the Alamo and the massacre at Goliad disrupted the meetings of the young Lodge. All Lodge records, jewels and possessions were destroyed or lost when the Mexican Army passed through Brazoria.

In the meantime the Grand Lodge of Louisiana granted a charter to Holland Lodge No. 36 on January 27, 1836, Col. John M. Allen delivered the document to Dr. Anson Jones, Worshipful Master, shortly before the Battle of San Jacinto and Dr. Jones carried this charter in his saddle bags during the battle that won Texas independence.

Conditions remained too chaotic for Holland Lodge to resume its meetings at Brazoria. Finally, Dr. Anson Jones called the Lodge in session on November 8, 1837 at Houston during the regular session of the Second Congress.

Prior to the re-activation of Holland Lodge No. 36, Lodges were formed at Nacogdoches and San Augustine with Dispensations from Louisiana and on September 22, 1837, charters were granted Milam Lodge No. 40 and McFarland Lodge No. 41. By invitation of Holland Lodge No. 36 representatives from these Lodges met in the Senate Chamber on December 20, 1837 and formed the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. By the end of 1839, 13 Lodges had been formed in Texas including Harmony No. 6 at Galveston, Matagorda No. 7 at Matagorda and Austin No. 12 at Austin.

Conditions had not been favorable for Samuel N. Williams to get San Felipe de Austin Chapter and San Felipe de Austin Commandery organized and functioning. The first Royal Arch Chapter to actually function in Texas was Cyrus Chapter No. 1 at Matagorda. This Chapter was formed by Companion Dugald McFarlane and ten or twelve other Royal Arch Masons under a Master's Warrant from Matagorda Lodge No. 7 on November 12, 1838. Companion McFarlane had presided at the organization of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama in 1823 and was the first Grand High Priest.

Following this Rising Star Chapter was formed with the authority of McFarland Lodge No. 3 at San Augustine. Then Lone Star Chapter was formed under authority from Austin Lodge No. 12.

In the meantime, Samuel N. Williams, the 3rd Grand Master of Texas, used the charter granted by the General Grand Chapter on December 9, 1835 to open a Chapter at Galveston on June 2, 1840.

Probably feeling the need of higher authority to form a Grand Chapter, the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas took the following action on December 10, 1841:

“The Petitions of sundry Royal Arch Masons, asking for dispensation to open Chapters at Matagorda, Galveston, Austin and San Augustine were read. Brother

Teulon moved that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and the usual fees to the Grand Lodge be dispensed with and remitted, which motion was adopted.”

Following the granting of charters to the four Chapters by the Grand Lodge, representatives of these four Chapters met in Convention on December 14, 1841 and formed the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Republic of Texas with John H. Walton of San Felipe de Austin Chapter presiding over the organization.

A second session of the Grand Chapter met December 16, 1841 and the Grand Officers were elected for the newly formed Grand Chapter. Barry Gillespie was elected Grand High Priest. When John H. Walton “the Delegate from Galveston was not elected to the first office in the [Grand] Chapter... he declined to have further connection with it.”

A third session on December 21, 1841 resulted in the adoption of a Constitution after more than a week of consultation and study upon it. The Delegate from Austin de Felipe refused to sign the Constitution and that Chapter had nothing else to do with the Grand Chapter of Texas.

Apparently a fourth session was held on December 23rd. 1841 and Charters granted to the constituent Chapters.

San Felipe de Austin made its first report to the General Grand Chapter soon after this (in 1842), informing that body of its inability to open a Chapter at San Felipe de Austin and the use of the Charter in opening a Chapter at Galveston five years later on June 2, 1840. An inaccurate or misunderstood account was given of the formation of Grand Chapter of Texas stating that San Felipe de Austin Chapter refused to participate and considered it irregular and that the Companions ‘had no legal Masonic right to hold Chapters of Royal Arch Masons.’ The General Grand Chapter in 1844 approved the action of San Felipe de Austin Chapter and declared the Grand Chapter of the Republic of Texas irregular.

Visitation occurred between the Royal Arch Masons of Texas and San Felipe de Austin Chapter until 1845 when the Grand Chapter of Texas issued an interdict against their members visiting a Chapter in Texas not working under their authority.

The action of the General Grand Chapter in 1844 was not known in Texas until September, 1845 and then the information came in a letter from a Companion in

Alabama. The Grand Chapter of the Republic of Texas protested the misrepresentations made by San Felipe de Austin Chapter and the conclusion of the General Grand Chapter that the “so - called Chapters at Matagorda and Austin... had no legal Masonic right to hold Chapters of Royal Arch Masons” and that it was “not pretended that they have any charter or warrant, whatever, but are merely individual Royal Arch Masons, who have, by their own unaided act, associated themselves together for this purpose, assuming the right so to do on account of the people of the country being politically separated from all others.”

The lack of communication and the garbled report of the actual state of affairs resulted in a worsening of relationships. On September 17, 1847 the General Grand Chapter placed an interdict on Masonic intercourse with the so - called Grand Chapter of Texas” and its subordinate Chapters and members.

Eventually the Texas Companions in the interests of peace capitulated and dissolved the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas on January 16, 1849, to become effective March 1, 1849.

Unfortunately the Texas Chapters were deemed irregular by the General Grand Chapter and all members declared clandestine Royal Arch Masons, who had to be healed before affiliating with the new Chapters. This “created resentments and bitterness which lasted for decades. Many of those proud and high—spirited old pioneers refused to conform to the formula and remained aloof.”

Eight of the thirteen Chapters of the Old Grand Chapter accepted Dispensations from the General Grand Chapter and representatives from seven of these along with San Felipe de Austin Chapter met at Houston on June 24, 1850 and drafted a Constitution to organize a new Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. The organization was completed on December 30, 1850 and Companions, S. M. Williams elected as Grand High Priest.

Beginning in 1856 legislation was introduced to reduce the General Grand Chapter from a Supreme Sovereign Grand Body to a Confederation of state Grand Chapters. The Texas representatives opposed these measures. In 1857, Kentucky and North Carolina announced their withdrawal from the General Grand Chapter.

Texas adopted a resolution in 1857 to “all other State Grand Chapters... asking the dissolution of the General Grand Body.”

“The charge has been frequently made that the reason for the withdrawal of Texas was occasioned by the prejudices and bitterness growing out of the Civil War. This record should henceforth silence those claims. The real reasons, in addition to the constitutional changes, extended back to the days of the Grand Chapter of the Republic of Texas. The aggressive methods employed in bringing about its dissolution; the denunciation of its initiates as clandestine; the requirement of healing of such members before being admitted members of Chapters under the Second Grand Chapter; the adoption of the Pike and Mackey amendments to the constitution, all took place long before the Civil War brought an abrupt end to the relationship. The Civil War was not the cause of the severance of our relations, it merely provided the opportunity.”

The 1859 General Grand Chapter was marked by extended controversy and debate over the amendment to reduce the authority and power of the general body. The amendment was finally passed. The Grand High Priest of Texas then presented a communication in behalf of the Grand Chapter of Texas asking permission to withdraw from the confederacy of Grand Chapters. This was refused on the ground that the Grand Chapter of Texas had not acted upon this matter.

In 1860 Texas agreed to request the General Grand Chapter to agree to the dissolution of their relationship. When the 1861 Grand Chapter met in mid - June the Confederacy had been formed and the hostilities of war had begun. A resolution was adopted that “all allegiance to and connection with, the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America be, from this day forward, dissolved.” On this occasion San Felipe de Austin Chapter requested and was granted a charter, having operated under the General Grand Chapter until 1861.

Following 1859 and by the end of the War and the restoration of peace the Grand Chapters of Vermont, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Iowa, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia along with Texas had all withdrawn from the General Grand Chapter. In 1868, General Grand Chapter requested these Grand Chapters to resume their relationship with the General Grand Chapter and invited Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida, Grand Chapters never identified with the General Grand Chapter, to unite also. The resolution adopted

stated that no Grand Chapter organized by authority of the General Grand Chapter or at any time a constituent member “can lawfully sever its connections with the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America without its consent ...”

By 1877 the General Grand Chapter could report of the withdrawing Grand Chapters that “all have come back but Texas and Rhode Island,” and of course Pennsylvania and Virginia.

In 1878 the question of reunion with the General Grand Chapter was considered at length and rejected. In 1880 an attempt was made in the General Grand Chapter to “forbid and prohibit all Masonic intercourse” with the Grand Chapter of Texas but failed in passage. Frederic Speed of Mississippi offered a minority report calling attention to the fact that under the Constitution (Article 7) “the power of discipline, admonition, censure, or instruction, over Grand Chapters, is expressly denied to the General Grand Chapter.” He further stated that the Grand Chapter of Texas was a sovereign body and when of its own volition it resumed its relation as a component part of the General Grand Chapter that it would “not come as a Prodigal Son, but standing erect in the full measure of its manhood, as becomes a Sovereign among Sovereigns.”

The Grand High Priests of Texas in 1877, 1892 and 1894 all recommended that Texas rejoin the General Grand Chapter. These recommendations were considered at length and courteously declined. Following the resolution of 1894 the matter was dormant for 18 years.

The General Grand High Priest wrote a lengthy invitation to the Grand Chapters of Rhode Island and Texas, neither of which had been represented in the General Grand Chapter since 1859, inviting and urging them to resume their relationship. In his address as General Grand High Priest he proposed that if they did not respond that after the first day of January, 1893, all intercourse of the Grand Chapters in this jurisdiction, and of all Royal Arch Masons in allegiance to this body, with the Grand Chapters of Rhode Island and Texas, and all their subordinate Chapters, and all Royal Arch Masons belonging to their jurisdictions, shall cease.” Fortunately his proposal was not adopted. Rhode Island returned to the General Grand Chapter in 1897.

In 1892 a Dispensation for Chapultepec Chapter in Mexico City was granted by the General Grand High Priest. A charter was issued in 1894 but suspended in 1896.

In the 1893 convocation of the Grand Chapter of Texas the Grand High Priest was “authorized to grant a dispensation to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Mexico, when he has become satisfied that the application conforms in every way with similar applications in Texas...” No effort was made to carry this out while the General Grand Chapter had a subordinate Chapter in Mexico. On May 20, 1900 the Grand High Priest of Texas issued a Dispensation to Mexico City Chapter, a charter on December 5, 1900 and Mexico City Chapter No. 225 was officially constituted January 12, 1901. A Dispensation for a Chapter at Guadalajara was granted June 4, 1908, a Charter authorized on December 1, 1908 and Guadalajara Chapter No. 303 constituted on January 23, 1909.

In 1912 the Grand High Priest of Texas recommended reuniting with the General Grand Chapter. A Committee appointed to study the proposal did not report until 1916 when the proposal was again rejected.

The Grand High Priest in his annual report in 1918 stated he had granted a Dispensation for a Chapter at Tampico, The Committee on Grand Officers’ Reports stated that “while this action was legally within the prerogatives of the Grand High Priest, we are of the opinion that for some years it has been the policy of our Grand Chapter not to extend its field or energies beyond the borders of the State of Texas.” However, on December 3, 1918, a Charter was authorized and Tampico Chapter No. 382 was constituted on February 7, 1919.

On November 19, 1919 the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Mexico declared the York Grand Lodge irregular. The Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge declared those participating in the Scottish Rite action “forever suspended and expelled” from the York Grand Lodge and its subordinates. The list included the High Priest of Mexico City Chapter No. 225, whose Blue Lodge membership was actually in Missouri. The High Priest of this Chapter called a special convocation and the York Grand Lodge was declared irregular. The Grand High Priest of Texas declared the action of Mexico Chapter No. 225 “unauthorized and void.” The Chapter accepted the decision of the Grand High Priest but the situation remained tense and obscure.

A special committee reported to the Grand Chapter of Texas in 1920 that some 134 members of Mexico City Chapter had been expelled by the York Grand Lodge, the only Blue Lodge Masonry recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas and the Grand Chapter of Texas. These expelled members had affiliated with Lodges of the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico, a Craft body not then recognized by Texas. Some forty or fifty members of Mexico City Chapter holding membership in Lodges of the York Grand Lodge had been expelled by that Chapter. Upon recommendation of the Committee the Charter of Mexico City Chapter No. 225 was revoked on December 8, 1920.

The Grand Lodge of Texas endeavored to secure the union of the York Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico. When this failed the Grand Lodge reversed its former position and recognized the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico.

In October, 1921, Dr. William F. Kuhn, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, received a petition from 67 Companions requesting permission to form a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Mexico City. Dr. Kuhn states, "The territory being unoccupied by any Chapter, I granted a dispensation December 3, 1921." On March 15, 1922 the General Grand High Priest, General Grand Secretary and General Grand Custodian of the Work instituted the City of Mexico Chapter U.D.

It should be recalled that while the Charter of Mexico City Chapter No. 225 had been revoked on December 8, 1920, yet Tampico Chapter No. 382 was still functioning under the Grand Chapter of Texas. Guadalajara Chapter No. 303 became dormant and its Charter was revoked in 1913.

Despite the statement of the General Grand High Priest of "unoccupied territory," he granted a Dispensation to 140 Royal Arch Masons and instituted Tampico Chapter, U.D. on March 21, 1922, ignoring completely the presence of the Texas Chapter Tampico Mo. 382, which did not turn in its Charter to Texas until December, 1922.

The recognition of the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico by the Grand Lodge of Texas just following the closing of the 1921 convocation of the Grand Chapter of Texas, placed the Masonic situation of Mexico in a new light.

On January 14, 1922, the Grand High Priest of Texas received a petition from thirty former members of Mexico City Chapter Mo. 225 desiring to form a new Chapter.

A dispensation was granted on March 9, 1922 and was instituted as Mexico City Chapter U.D. on March 12, 1922.

The General Grand High Priest and his party arrived in Mexico City on March 12, 1922 and was highly affronted when he learned a Texas Chapter was instituted the next day and two days prior to the institution of the Chapter of the General Grand.

In a letter dated May 9, 1922 he accused the Grand High Priest of Texas of “a deliberate invasion of the Jurisdiction and a premeditated and apparently a sinister affront to the General Grand Chapter....”

He also declared, “Your Deputy, so I am reliably informed, was instructed to hasten to Mexico City and institute your Chapter before the General Grand Chapter could institute its Chapter.”

Dr. Kuhn accused the organization of the Chapter as violating Article 98 of the By – Laws of Texas requiring certificates of good standing for all signers of the petition.

The Grand High Priest of Texas denied all of these charges, though admitting “there was a rumor that the General Grand High Priest might grant a Dispensation for a Chapter in the City of Mexico, but that he could not believe it. He assured the General Grand High Priest “that no indignity was intended toward the General Grand Chapter.”

Dr. Kuhn bluntly replied to this letter stating that it was “unsatisfactory, being evasive and containing an element of subterfuge. Much of your letter is irrelevant to the question at issue and does not merit a reply.” He further stated “to refresh your memory, I would call your attention again to the instructions given your Deputy to hurry and institute a Chapter before the General Grand High Priest could institute a Chapter under the General Grand Chapter. The haste was so great that the Dispensation did not pass through the Grand Secretary’s office as a matter of record.... Your action in the face of these facts can not be construed other than a deliberate and premeditated invasion and from the circumstances an affront to the General Grand High Priest. What sinister motive lay behind it, I leave for you and your advisors to explain.... It might also be noted that the Chapter at Tampico under your Jurisdiction had surrendered its Charter and petitioned for a Dispensation for a Charter under the General Grand Chapter.”

Further correspondence was of no avail and on September 15, 1922, the General Grand High Priest issued an edict forbidding “all Royal Arch intercourse and fraternal relations with Mexico City Chapter, U.D. under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Texas...”

The action of the Grand High Priest of Texas in granting a Dispensation to Mexico City Chapter upon recommendation of a special committee with Sam P. Cochran as Chairman, was approved by the Grand Chapter and a charter granted Mexico City Chapter No. 414.

The action was not unanimous and Grand Secretary T. N. Bartley, Chairman of the Printing Committee, appended the following note: “The foregoing report prepared by “The Special Committee” for the printer, through ignorance or otherwise, is not in accord with the facts or the law, and the printing committee disclaims any responsibility therefore. “T. H. Bartley, Chairman.”

The General Grand High Priest considered the report of this Special Committee “a mass of evasion, misstatements and misrepresentations.” On April 15, 1923 he declared “all fraternal relations between the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States of America, and the Grand Chapter of Texas, severed, until the Grand Chapter of Texas shall recall the charter issued to the Chapter in the city of Mexico.

“Grand High Priests of the Grand Chapters of this obedience are directed to cancel and recall the credentials of Grand Representatives to and from the Grand Chapter of Texas, and to notify the Chapters under their jurisdiction of the effect of this Edict.”

The Grand High Priest of Texas for 1923, J. A. Gartland, suggested to the Companions of Mexico City Chapter No. 414 that he thought it would be better for them to voluntarily surrender their charter than to have it revoked at the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter. Accordingly “after a full and free discussion” the members of Mexico City Chapter voted to surrender their charter on July 13, 1923.

The action of the Grand High Priest was approved in regard to the Mexican situation and after considerable discussion it was agreed “that Texas, in the future keep out of any further entangling alliances with Mexican Masonry....”

Following this action the General Grand High Priest annulled the Edict against Texas and declared fraternal relations restored on December 4, 1923.

The highly emotional state of the General Grand High Priest as shown in his inflammatory letters to the Grand High Priest of Texas had subsided when he wrote his address for the General Grand Chapter and his most embittered correspondence is found only in the 1922 report of the Grand High Priest of Texas. Dr. Kuhn, the General Grand High Priest died suddenly on September 1, 1924, just nine days before he was to preside over the 39th Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter.

Dr. Kuhn, in his written address, reported that 38 of the Grand Chapters had obeyed his Edict with reference to Texas. He was unhappy over the fact that “eight Grand Chapters ... did not stand with the thirty—eight in line of battle when the bugle sounded. He frankly stated some had failed in their duty and held “the attitude of the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin” as “one of rebellion.”

The high—handed act of the General Grand High Priest in assuming the prerogative of directing what the sovereign Grand Chapters should do was disapproved by the Jurisprudence Committee of the General Grand Chapter. This Committee held that ‘The General Grand High Priest can exercise no powers which the General Grand Chapter does not have. By express constitutional provision the General Grand Chapter has no power of discipline, admonition, censure, or instruction over the State Grand Chapters, nor can it exercise any doubtful powers, nor any powers by implication only. (Constitution Par. 7).’

In 1942 the General Grand Chapter extended invitations to “the Grand Chapters of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas and those of Canada...” The General Grand High Priest, Ray V. Denslow, visited the 1942 Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Texas and was received with full Masonic honors and extended every courtesy. He revealed an understanding of ‘the true and effective reason underlying the withdrawal of the Grand Chapter of Texas from the confederation’ and attached no blame to the Texas action of 1859 and 1861.

In order that the Companions of Texas might be adequately informed before voting on the proposal Past Grand High Priest Jewel P. Lightfoot prepared for publication a 115 page History of the Relations Between the Grand Chapter of Texas

and the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America. Strangely, this excellent work is marred by a complete omission of the tragic Mexican affair.

Grand High Priest John Temple Rice recommended that Texas return to the General Grand Chapter but the “cordial invitation of the General Grand Chapter” was “fraternally and respectfully declined” in 1943.

The matter remained thus until the proposal of reuniting with the General Grand Chapter International, was made at the 1972 Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas to be acted upon at the 1973 Convocation.

(The above is a summary of Past Grand High Priest Jewel P. Lightfoot History of the Relations Between the Grand Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, written in 1943 together with additional pertinent information essential to a complete account of the relations of the Grand Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter International.)

Chairman.

Irvin S. Johnsey

TO THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF TEXAS:

As a member of the Special Committee to study the feasibility of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas rejoining the General Grand Chapter International, I submit my findings:

First, the possible benefits.

(1) We would have closer communication with the leaders of Capitular Masonry throughout the world on a once in three years basis.

(2) There would be opportunity for some of our leaders to advance to a broader horizon of Masonic recognition by becoming officers of the General Grand Chapter.

(3) Our membership would have access to the publications distributed by the General Grand Chapter.

Second, the possible and in some cases the positive, debits.

(1) I have carefully studied the report of Past Grand High Priest Jewel P. Lightfoot upon the early history of our dealing with the General Grand Chapter and my conclusion is that the Grand Chapter of Texas was at that time dealt with in a harsh and unreasonable manner.

(2) I have also studied the Transactions of the Grand Chapter of Texas for the years 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923 concerning the difficulties between the Grand Chapter, and my opinion is that the abusive language and dictatorial actions of the then General Grand High Priest were unwarranted.

(3) The General Grand Chapter has always contended and still contends, unless abridged at the last Triennial Convocation, that a Grand Chapter cannot withdraw from membership in General Grand Chapter except by mutual consent, and that Texas is still subject to General Grand Chapter Law.

(4) As late as 1957, the then General Grand High Priest declared that the Grand Chapter of the Republic of Mexico was subject to having its Charter lifted at his will and pleasure. This was not, however, upheld at the 1957 Triennial.

(5) The positive debit is that the dues to the General Grand Chapter would cost the Grand Chapter of Texas approximately Four Thousand Dollars per year, plus the expenses of the Grand Officers to the Triennial Convocations, in most instances thousands of miles distant. This is money we do not have at present.

Although the above difficulties and misunderstandings may never happen again, we can only judge the future by the past. At present we enjoy a most harmonious relationship with all our Sister Grand Jurisdictions, and we have our yearly Southwestern Conference of York Rite Grand Officers where we can exchange ideas with our near neighbors for our mutual benefit.

My opinion is that we should not again become involved in a relationship which has caused so much heartache and anguish in the past.

Committee Member.

Dean W. Turner

TO MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE QUESTION OF AFFILIATION WITH THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER:

Companions:

I have read and reread all of the material sent me regarding the relationship between the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and especially the very factual and impartial summary by V:E: Past Grand High Priest D. D. Tidwell, which I find to be most accurate and informative. I must admit that it would be difficult to summarize the 1920—1923 era as fairly and unemotionally as does he.

The history of relationship between the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter has indeed been a rocky and turbulent one. To put it mildly, the courtship has not been conducive to matrimony. Admitting prejudice in our behalf; even so, all the problems have been initiated and perpetuated by the General Grand Chapter.

But disregarding an ugly past, and even trying to forget the arrogance and insults directed toward the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and its Grand High Priests, we must consider the best interest of Capitular Masonry in Texas in the future.

In the first place, what can the General Grand Chapter offer for the advancement of Capitular Masonry in Texas that we do not already have? As I see it, they are these:

- 1st. Participation of our Grand Officers in another Masonic Organization which meets once each 3 years somewhere in one of the constituent states. This would offer further opportunity for exchange of ideas and fraternal association.
- 2nd. Opportunity for our Past Grand High Priest to hold some additional Capitular Offices with attending responsibilities and honors.

3rd. Qualification of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas to make an annual award for outstanding service (which we could do anyway if we wanted to.)

What would be the cost and disadvantages:

1st. It would cost the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas over \$4,000.00 a year dues. The initial cost of preparing a roster with names and addresses of all members would be several thousand dollars and it would be necessary to keep the list up to date at an additional cost of several hundred dollars per year. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter or its officers would also spend hundreds of dollars each three years attending the triennial meetings of the General Grand Chapter. We already have a very close budget which will undoubtedly have to be increased in the near future. This would place additional strain on the budget and each increase in dues tends to cause more suspensions for non – payment.

2nd. I am unimpressed by the recent statement that the General Grand Chapter does not claim sovereignty over any State Grand Chapter, nor authority to discipline, censure, admonish or legislate regarding any State Grand Chapter.

The action of the General Grand Chapter in 1861 in adopting just such a resolution led to the withdrawal of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, yet, notwithstanding these solemn promises, the General Grand Chapter in effect excommunicated the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas in 1923 over the question of jurisdiction in Mexico. It should also be noted that other states have had similar problems with the General Grand Chapter over jurisdictional matters; to-wit: Alabama, Louisiana, Florida. (p. 48 Lightfoot).

3rd. Regardless of the recent statements of intent upon the part of the General Grand Chapter, and giving full credence to the faithful performance of the same (which is contrary to the historical record of said organization), there is, nevertheless, a definite effort on the part of the General Grand Chapter to create an image of a superpower with officers empowered to make super decisions that are directory, if not mandatory, over all participating Grand

Chapters. It would tarnish the image of absolute sovereignty of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas which we hold to be inviolate and unimpeachable. There is no authority in Capitular Masonry superior to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. There is no Capitular Officer superior to the Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas.

4th. Capitular Masonry in Texas has been far more successful than in most of the states under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter. We enjoy excellent Fraternal relations with all the Grand Chapters in the General Grand Chapter. Why should we change a course which has been successful for more than 125 years?

I cast my vote on the Special Committee to report that we do not favor Joining the General Grand Chapter.

Committee Member.

REPORT OF C. B. [RYNES ON THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER

After devoting considerable time to the study of the facts shown by the history relating to both sides of this proposition, I shall try to briefly state my findings and reactions regarding the same.

In almost every case of misunderstanding and friction between the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International it has been caused by claims of sovereignty.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Republic of Texas was organized by Chapters originally formed by warrants from Lodges and then by warrants from the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, which was in keeping the usage of the earliest Chapters. The Chapters of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York appear to have been working under the same kind of authority when they met in Hartford, Connecticut on January 24, 1798 and organized the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America. Without warrant from any higher authority

this body gradually expanded its own authority and Jurisdiction over all territory in and out of the United States where no Grand Chapter existed.

The Chapters organizing the Grand Chapter of the Republic of Texas and the Chapters organizing the General Grand Chapter having sprung from the same kind of authority, I say one was just as legitimate as the other. Yet in 1849 the Grand Chapter of the Republic of Texas was forced by the General Grand Chapter to disband and reorganize under the authority of the General Grand Chapter. This was a clash over sovereign authority.

I regard to the case of Mexico City Chapter No. 225, I shall not go into any details but recommend that interested members read the Transactions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas for the years of 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923. There may be differences of opinion as to who had jurisdiction over this territory but the incident was caused by two different bodies claiming sovereignty over the same territory.

When Albert Pike and Albert Mackey introduced their resolution to take away the sovereign power of the General Grand Chapter and make it a Confederacy of Grand Chapters, I believe they intended to do just that. When the General Grand Chapter sees fit to divest itself of all sovereignty and become a Confederacy of Grand Chapters just for fraternal and social relations, then I may consider being in favor of rejoining the General Grand Chapter.

I believe the intention of the framers of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter was good and that the Constitution in general is a good document but it gives a General Grand High Priest a pretty free hand in his edicts and decisions. And it seems that ever so often a General Grand High Priest comes along who is a little over zealous and highhanded in his actions. Let me cite a circumstance that could happen. I hope it never does and I do not think that it ever will but it could happen under the present set up. Suppose that some General Grand High Priest as a result of some trivial difference with the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas should decree that no Royal Arch Mason of a Grand Chapter under the authority of the General Grand Chapter could hold Masonic communication with any member of a Chapter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. His action would be law, at least until the next Triennial which could be approximately three years! What chaos this could create!

Texas Royal Arch Masons could only hold communication with Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The Blue Lodge degrees of Freemasonry have existed a mighty long time with no national or world authority riding herd over them and I can find no reason why the Royal Arch degrees need one. Let each Grand Chapter conduct its own affairs and also its relations with other Grand Jurisdictions. I believe that in that way we can get along as Royal Arch Masons just as well as we do as Blue Lodge Masons.

I hold each officer and each Companion of the Chapters of each Grand Chapter constituting the General Grand Chapter in the highest fraternal regard and enjoy their companionship when visiting their jurisdictions and when they favor us in our Grand Jurisdiction with their presence at our meetings. It is my sincere hope that we may enjoy many more happy meetings in the future.

Under the present set up of things it is my best judgment that we should decline the proposal to reunite with the General Grand Chapter and remain as we are.

Committee Member.



REPORT OF ALLIE S. NOBLE, P.G.H.P.

MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER

(Note -- to save time and space the following abbreviations will apply in my report: "History" will refer to V.E. Companion Jewel P. Lightfoot's "History of the Relations Between the Grand Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America." "Grand Chapter" will refer to the "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas." "General Grand Chapter" will refer to "General Grand Chapter of the United States of America" or "General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International .")

Ever since I have been active in the affairs of the Grand Chapter, I have felt that we should belong to the General Grand Chapter. On December 4, 1972, as your Grand

High Priest, I recommended to the Grand Chapter of Texas “that the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas consider rejoining the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International.”

The Grand Chapter instructed the incoming Grand High Priest M.E. Companion R. Bruce Brannon, to appoint a Committee to study and research this matter and to make its report by July 1, 1973, so that its report could be sent to the individual Chapter for its study, to the end that the duly elected delegates to the Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter on December 3 and 4, 1973, could be intelligently informed and instructed to vote for the best interests of the Grand Chapter of Texas.

As a member of this Committee and endeavoring to present what I feel is the best course for the Grand Chapter to follow, I submit the following:

When the Grand Chapter of Texas was organized in 1850. It became a member of the General Grand Chapter and remained a member until the late 1850's when it voted to withdraw its membership. The Civil War followed soon thereafter and Texas never saw fit to reunite with the General Grand Chapter.

(In order to clarify a mistaken idea many of the Companions of Texas have had, the reason why Texas withdrew from the General Grand Chapter had nothing to do with the Civil War, nor with Texas' seceding from the Union. Two distinguished Masons, Albert Pike and Albert Mackey, well known to all Masons, introduced a resolution in the General Grand Chapter taking away the supreme authority of the General Grand Chapter and making it a Confederacy of Grand Chapters. This resolution was passed, and the Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of Texas being bitterly opposed to this, submitted their request for withdrawal from the General Grand Chapter in 1861.)

Since that time, in 1878, 1894, 1916 and 1943, the General Grand Chapter has invited the Grand Chapter of Texas to rejoin, and each time the invitation has been turned down “with thanks.”

At the Triennial of the General Grand Chapter at Las Vegas in September, 1972, I invited the newly elected General Grand High Priest, Edward N. Selby, of Martins Ferry, Ohio, to visit our Grand Chapter and to give us a personal invitation to rejoin the General Grand Chapter. Companion Selby, along with General Grand Scribe Gordon Merrick, and General Grand Captain of the Host Brinkley Brown, both of Colorado,

visited our Grand Convocation, and at various times each of them addressed the Grand Chapter. Companion Selby gave us a very forceful talk and extended the invitation to us to rejoin the General Grand Chapter. In the January, 1973, issue of THE ADVANCE, the official publication sent to all past and present elective Grand Chapter Officers, Companion Selby commented on his visit. We furnished him with a copy of Past Grand High Priest Jewel P. Lightfoot's "History". In his message in THE ADVANCE, Companion Selby wrote:

"Masonic jurisprudence and the rules which govern Fraternal Relations were not then (1850) in the highly developed state we now know. Notwithstanding all this, it is hard to understand or follow the reasoning of General Grand Chapter in its treatment of Texas when the development of Capitular Masonry there was paralleled in many other states and colonies then in good standing in General Grand Chapter.

"The net result was the engendering of resentments that were inherited by succeeding generations of Texans which remain to this day although conditions in Masonry have been drastically changed in the meanwhile." Ending his report with the statement of N.E. Companion Calvin A. Behle, Past General Grand High Priest, that the General Grand Chapter is strictly "A SERVICE ORGANIZATION", Companion Selby said:

"A High Priest greater than any of us once charged his followers: 'Let he who would be chief among you be as a servant. "From another rite of Masonry another degree comes this quotation:

'Give me to serve and I will be doubly blest.'

"With a firm adherence to this policy of Service, General Grand Chapter expresses its sincere hope that their Companions in Texas will soon be a part of this noble work."

We, in the Grand Chapter of Texas, are most grateful to Companions Selby, Merrick, Brown and others of the General Grand Chapter for attending our Grand Convocation, and for their frank and honest statements, not only when speaking before the Grand Chapter Convocation, but in their personal visits and conversations with our Companions.

There have been many reasons given why the Grand Chapter of Texas should not join the General Grand Chapter. I would like to list the more common objections and give what I feel is an honest and truthful answer to these objections. I feel that if you will examine these with an open mind you will agree with me that it is for the best interest of our Grand Chapter that we accept the invitation of the more than 500,000 Royal Arch Masons of the world and join with them in the 'noble and glorious undertaking' of promoting Royal Arch Masonry throughout the world.

The most common reasons given for Texas not joining the General Grand Chapter are as follows:

1. TEXAS WOULD LOSE ITS SOVEREIGNTY AS A GRAND CHAPTER. This is NOT correct. For many years the General Grand Chapter has been a 'CONFEDERACY' of Grand Chapters. To remove any semblance of doubt about this, the 1972 Triennial of the General Grand Chapter adopted the following:

"POWERS OF GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER'

"Section 7 (a). The General Grand Chapter has and possesses no other powers than such as are indispensably necessary to the exercise of its general powers, and consistent with the nature of its relations subsisting between the Affiliated Grand Chapters. It can exercise no doubtful powers, nor any powers by implication merely; and all Masonic powers not hereby granted to it are reserved to the Grand and Subordinate Chapters of the several Affiliated Grand Jurisdictions, or to Royal Arch Masons Individually. The Grand Chapters affiliated with this General Grand Chapter are sovereign bodies and the supreme and final authority in all matters of Capitular Freemasonry within their respective Jurisdictions."

Further, Section 7 (d) reads in part as follows:

"(d) It shall have no power of discipline, admonition, censure or instruction over the Grand Chapters, nor any legislative powers whatever, not hereby specially granted, nor any authority to suspend the proceedings of any affiliated Grand Chapters, etc."

The only control left to the General Grand Chapter is in those areas where there is no Grand Chapter. In those areas if there is a subordinate Chapter, established by the General Grand Chapter, it is under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter. Later, should there be a Grand Chapter organized, as in the case of Mexico a few years

ago, then the jurisdiction of any Chapters there would pass from the General Grand Chapter to that Grand Chapter.

2. TEXAS WOULD BE FORCED TO GIVE UP ITS RITUAL AND TO USE THE RITUAL OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

This is false. Not one word of the Texas Grand Chapter Ritual would be changed. At the present time only about one third of the Grand Chapters belonging to the General Grand Chapter use the General Grand Chapter Ritual. All the others use their own individual ritual and are free to make any change in it that they so desire.

3. IF TEXAS SHOULD JOIN THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER AND LATER SHOULD WISH TO WITHDRAW, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO.

This idea is not correct. While it is hoped that once Texas joins the General Grand Chapter, it would never want to withdraw; however, since Texas would remain a sovereign body, it would have the power to withdraw any time it wanted to.

4. THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER WOULD TRY TO TELL THE GRAND CHAPTER OF TEXAS WHAT TO DO, AND WHAT NOT TO DO.

This idea is entirely wrong. Read "Section 7 (d)" above. As stated at Las Vegas by the then General Grand High Priest, Calvin A. Behle, the General Grand Chapter is only 'A SERVICE ORGANIZATION.' It is there to help any Grand Chapter which needs help in any way, but it will never interfere in the affairs and workings of a Grand Chapter.

5. IT WOULD COST THE GRAND CHAPTER OF TEXAS "A LOT OF MONEY" TO BELONG TO THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

The dues are ten cents per member, annually, on all members carried on the rolls of the Grand Chapter. Thus, the annual cost per member is only a little more than the cost of a postage stamp to mail a letter. Compare this 10¢ per member with the amounts paid by other Masonic Bodies.

a. The Grand Commandery of Texas pays to the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, the sum of \$3.30 per member. (If a Sir Knight is a life Sponsor of the K.T. Eye Foundation, the amount is \$2.30 per member.)

b. The individual Shrine Temples pay to the Imperial Shrine \$1.10 per year per member.

c. The various Texas Consistories of the Scottish Rite pay to the Supreme Council of the 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States the amount of \$1.00 per year, per member.

d. Other bodies belonging to a National Organization pay various amounts and in various ways. For instance, the Knights of the York Cross of Honour pay half of the initiation fee to the parent organization and then pay no annual dues per member.

From this, one can see that the 10¢ per member per year is very insignificant in comparison with what our sister bodies have to pay.

6. THE QUESTION IS OFTEN ASKED 'WHAT GOOD WOULD THE GRAND CHAPTER OF TEXAS RECEIVE IN BELONGING TO THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER?

Truthfully, the answer is that the Grand Chapter of Texas would do a lot more good for the General Grand Chapter and the more than 500,000 Royal Arch Masons belonging to it than Texas would receive for itself. Only three Grand Chapters in the United States do not belong to the General Grand Chapter, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Texas. We would belong to and be a part of the "SERVICE ORGANIZATION" known as the General Grand Chapter and our 40,000 Royal Arch Masons would join with the more than 500,000 other Companions in presenting a united front for the furthering of the common cause of Royal Arch Masonry. Through the years we have enjoyed the closest of relations with the Companions of New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Mexico and others, all members of General Grand Chapter. These close relations will continue, but if we were all members of the same great "SERVICE ORGANIZATION", and all working together, think how much more good the General Grand Chapter could do with the help of Texas.

The General Grand Chapter owns and operates the York Rite Publishing Company. This concern prints and distributes THE ROYAL ARCH MASON which is received and enjoyed by many York Rite Masons in Texas.

The General Grand Chapter also publishes many useful pamphlets, a number of which we use in Texas. Others have been revised and printed by our Grand Chapter for use in Texas Blue Lodges.

Many of us have purchased books on York Rite Masonry, written and published by the Editors of the York Rite Publishing Company.

The General Grand Chapter has been the leader in advancing Royal Arch Masonry. It has raised an Endowment Fund of more than \$50,000, the interest from it being given annually to the Order of DeMolay for Boys.

The General Grand Chapter supports a Royal Arch Room in the George Washington National Masonic Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia, with inspirational murals and a sound tract depicting the historical background of our degrees. For many years our Past Grand High Priest, Warren F. Merritt, was a member of the Committee handling the Royal Arch Room, and following his death P.G.H.P. Allie S. Noble was named to his place.

Many other programs are sponsored by the General Grand Chapter, for instance, an annual regional conference, to which the Grand Chapter of Texas Grand Officers are invited, and to which many have attended. It has developed recognition programs for individual chapters and individual accomplishment. One of our own Texas Royal Arch Masons, Companion Edwin E. 'Buzz' Aldrin, received the General Grand Chapter Gold Medal, the highest award given by the General Grand Chapter.

It was my privilege to attend the sessions of the General Grand Chapter at Las Vegas in September, 1972 (at no cost to the Grand Chapter of Texas). There, it was my good fortune to meet the outstanding Royal Arch Masons throughout the world. I feel that I am a better Royal Arch Mason for having been associated with them at their Triennial, and I know each Companion in Texas would feel the same as I do if he could attend such a meeting as I did. We, in Texas, are members of the Southwestern York Rite Grand Officers Association and as such we have met with the Past and Present Grand Officers of the various Grand Chapters, Grand Councils and Grand Commanderies of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. We have exchanged ideas and each of us has received much good from these meetings. If then, we receive such fine benefits from these meetings, think how much more good our Grand Officers would receive from the Triennial meetings with the Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of the United States, Canada, Mexico and the other Grand Jurisdictions beyond the seas.

I hope and trust each of you has read the “History” written by V.E. Past Grand High Priest Jewel P. Lightfoot. This most thorough explanation of the “so—called” differences between the Grand Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter gives in the most minute details everything relative to it. If you have not read this “History”, you can find it in the 1943 Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Texas. V.E. Companion Lightfoot stated that he felt the principal questions to be considered by the Grand Chapter at its 1943 Convocation were as follows:

1. Do we feel any duty or obligations toward our oppressed Brethren of other lands, which the General Grand Chapter may efficiently serve in the post war era?

2. Do we feel any duty or interest in extending Capitular Masonry and its beneficent influence into other countries on this hemisphere?

3. Are we interested in aiding in the creation of unity, and greater solidarity in the organization of Capitular Masonry, to the end that more constructive programs may be carried out, and a “solid front” presented?

4. Is the Grand Chapter of Texas willing to rejoin the Confederation for the purpose of aiding and cooperating in such a program, if the same can be effected without abridging or affecting its supremacy, sovereignty and exclusive control over all the affairs of Royal Arch Masonry in Texas?

V.E. Companion Lightfoot very ably answers this as follows:

“It is pointed out that we exchange Grand Representatives with each of the other Grand Chapters, and annually receive them at our Convocations with high honors, evidencing the cordial relations prevailing among all the Grand Chapters of the United States.

“If the relations outside the Confederation can be so congenial, is there any good reason to suppose that they would be less happy within the Confederation? It is difficult to explain why we are happy to fraternize with each singly, and exchange representatives with them, yet, have not found it agreeable to associate with them collectively in their Confederation.

“The question is then asked. ‘In view of this situation, is there any good and valid reason why the strong and worthy Grand Chapter of Texas should deem it necessary or desirable to longer stand aloft and occupy a position of official isolation?’ The simple

process of enrolling its name with the Confederation, it is contended, would materially aid in establishing a solid Capitular front. Moreover, the Grand Chapter would gain thereby a voice, vote and have a part with its 46 (note--now 55 or more) other sister Grand Chapters in promoting constructive programs and policies for the future progress and well being of Royal Arch Masonry on the Western Hemisphere. (Note—now International)”

The last time the matter of joining the General Grand Chapter was in 1943. V.E. Companion John Temple Rice presided at the Grand Convocation, and in his address he made the following comments (page 48):

‘Never in the history of the Masonic World has the time been so appropriate and propitious for the unification of all Masonic Bodies and Rites, for closer affiliation, for the strengthening of fraternal bonds and fellowship. Surely the existing conditions in the world need the work and service of a united Royal Arch Craft) such as the states Grand Chapters in their Confederation, represented by the General Grand Chapter of the United States -- with the Grand Chapter of Texas as a part -- can render.

“Can the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas longer refrain from reuniting with the Confederation of Sovereign Grand Chapters, and withhold its strength, its counsel, its influence and thereby retard the unity of Capitular Masonry?”

“Our Grand Chapter gains nothing by remaining out of the Confederation. In reuniting we have everything to gain and nothing to lose, and the satisfaction that we are fraternally a part of, and working for the greater advancement of Capitular Masonry - - and in the creation of greater unity and solidarity.”

“It is my hope that the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas will accept the challenge presented for greater Masonic service, and reunite with the States Grand Chapters in the Confederation, represented by the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Unites States of America.”

“It is my happy privilege to recommend the acceptance of the gracious, cordial and sincere invitation extended to us by the General Grand Chapter and become an affiliated member of the Confederation of States Grand Chapters.”

No more sincere words could be written than those of these two most distinguished Past Grand High Priests, No more eloquent arguments can be given than

they have presented. The same facts remain today as vivid as they were 30 years ago -- the arguments are the same -- the reasons are as true and as valid. I therefore, in all sincerity, recommend that the Grand Chapter of Texas join forces with the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International.

Committee Member.