

J. HERBERT MEIGHAN
MAYOR OF GADSDEN
PRESIDENT

ALBERT M. RAINS
CITY ATTORNEY, GADSDEN
LEGAL ADVISER

THE ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

6-7-8 TYSON BUILDING
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

AUGUST 18, 1943.

ED E. REID
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HON. R. H. WALKER, PUBLISHER
LIMESTONE DEMOCRAT
ATHENS, ALABAMA

MY DEAR MR. WALKER:

I NOTE THAT JUDGE DAVE ROSENAU HAS RETURNED TO ASSUME THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE, SO I PRESUME THAT THE MATTER OF THE GOVERNOR BEING CALLED UPON TO FILL ANY VACANCY IN THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CONCLUDED. IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN THAT JUDGE ROSENAU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENTER THE SERVICE LATER PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO THAT WE CAN DO SOME MORE "FENCE BUILDING."

I HAD A LONG TALK LAST WEEK, IN BIRMINGHAM, WITH OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, CONGRESSMAN JOHN SPARKMAN. HE IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GOOD FRIENDSHIP AND ALSO MORE THAN PLEASED WITH THE WAY THAT YOU HANDLED THE FARM BUREAU CROWD IN YOUR COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ANNUAL BARBECUE. JOHN DOES NOT SEEM THE LEAST BIT WORRIED OVER THE PROSPECT OF OPPOSITION FROM THIS GANG. IN FACT, I THINK HE WOULD SORT OF WELCOME IT.

I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING WITH SENATOR HILL FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS TO HIS VARIOUS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS OVER THE STATE AND I AM CONVINCED FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN THAT HE IS AS UNBEATABLE AS WOULD HAVE BEEN COLONEL GRAVES IN LAST YEAR'S PRIMARY. HE IS CERTAINLY MAKING POLITICAL HAY IN THIS SUMMER SUNSHINE.

I HAD A TELEPHONE CALL THIS MORNING FROM GADSDEN FROM A FRIEND OF MINE WHO SERVES ON THE STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELLING ME THE "GALLOPING" GASTON IS AROUND CONTACTING THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN SUPPORT OF A MOVEMENT TO CALL A STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING A STATE PARTY PLATFORM TO WHICH ALL CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO SUBSCRIBE BEFORE QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE. HE TOLD THIS FRIEND THAT THE MOVEMENT HAD THE ENDORSEMENT OF GESSNER MCCORVEY. I KNOW THAT IT SOUNDS STRANGE TO YOU THAT GESSNER WOULD APPROVE OR ENDORSE ANYTHING THAT COULD PROVE THE LEAST EMBARRASSING TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND SENATOR HILL. GASTON, CERTAINLY IN THIS INSTANCE, LENDS CREDENCE TO A STATEMENT THAT A FRIEND OF MINE MADE SOME YEARS AGO THAT "GASTON IS ANYBODY'S WHORE WHO WILL SLEEP WITH HIM AND PAY HIM FOR THE PRIVILEGE." IT MAY BE THAT HE IS SHOWING HIS GREAT GRATITUDE FOR THE MANY FAVORS THAT SENATOR HILL HAS EXTENDED HIM, INCLUDING THE OBTAINMENT OF AT LEAST TWO FEDERAL JOBS FOR HIM IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

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ROS ATTENDED THE MEETING OF OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN BIRMINGHAM TWO WEEKS AGO. I WAS EXCEEDINGLY WELL PLEASED WITH HIS APPEARANCE. HE LOOKED FINE AND I BELIEVE IS MAKING A COMPLETE RECOVERY FROM HIS ILLNESS OF LAST YEAR.

MY MOTHER CONTINUES TO IMPROVE, THOUGH SHE IS STILL CONFINED TO HER BED. SHE HAS RETURNED HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL AND FEELS THAT HER RECOVERY WILL REQUIRE A SHORTER TIME AT HOME.

WITH WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS, I AM

YOUR FRIEND,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed E. Reid". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "E" and a cursive "Reid".

ED E. REID
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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