

Feb 27, 1930

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

Dear Dad and Mother:

Had intended to write to you-all last night but Mamie brought Atwood and Penny Allen home with her for dinner and, later, Shelby and Penny Driver came over so the evening was taken up. Rather pleasantly, however, in a talkative way. Atwood says she is "furious" with Father for not advising her of his candidacy earlier, or or permitting Jen to tell her. She says that numbers of Mooresville people do not care for Duncan and she herself seemed to rather share the feeling. I think Miss Gussie keeps her posted, though, on politics down there. Should I demand Atwood's support? As you know, she's just an old flame of mine.

In this connection, Mamie was writing today to Ila Deane Griffin who is again living in Florence, ~~xxxx~~ thinks we hear. In a most casual way (not being certain of your wishes) Mamie mentioned that you were running and suggested she give you a hand. Inasmuch as Ila Deane was in charge of the Country Club there for so long she probably would be a helpful supporter. Trust this interest has not ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ run contrary to your plans or ideas. Mamie also knows the extensive Reeder and Smith families over there, if they would be ~~xxx~~ of any use. Let me know what Willingham seems to be doing, please. Atwood inferred he was a "school ring" man, as we imagined he would be.

Jen, recently back from a week-end with Bobbet, seemed rather testy over the fact that we've not called on Chasrose. She does not mention them so much to me as she does to Mamie but I gather she is a trifle peeved, and Bobbet as well. My position, of course, is that I tried to locate him in his ~~xxx~~ Baltimore hospital in 1925 and that Rose reported to him, vaguely, that some fraternity brother of his had called up. Later, on his visits to New York he never gave me a tumble despite my repeated injunctions to Jen to ask him to call me up at the Tribune, just five blocks away from Jen's headquarters. Even if I liked him, it seems to me I've done sufficient. Both Chas. and Rose, of course, lived in New York long before we did so we ~~xxx~~ could scarcely constitute a homecoming committee. ~~xxxx~~ Aside ~~xx~~ from these considerations, what I hear of Charles doesn't lead me to believe that I could cherish him and I have sufficient uncongenial contacts here now to annoy me. I hope we shan't have to go through the ~~xxxx~~ why-don't-you-call-on-Bobbet-or-have-them-to-dinner-or-something blah again, so that is why I'm mentioning this. Please, please don't say anything about it to any of the circle---especially Saned.

Was rather surprised to hear that you thought Uncle Ros was pledged to Patton. Don't you imagine that all such promises are invalidated by the entrance of a ~~xxxxx~~ brother-in-law in the race? As for Little (Ros) Napoleon, he probably has so much on his mind he won't be able to weigh your claims until mid-summer. After all he is a cabinet member and the cares of state are ponderous.

Seems wise to me to start running the political series at once, particularly in view of the Kolb-Goodwyn papallel. I think the series amply well written to justify its appearance. I would urge, however, that each campaign outline carry a slate of WHO RAN FOR WHAT IN LIMESTONE to localize the stuff even more. Also, of course, who was elected.

Would also advise that you pad it out more, in the belief that you cannot be too explicit for your readers' good. Don't let it go over their heads, and don't be afraid of reiteration to stress a point.

You never said what you thought of sub-heading it liberally. Also, be sure you get a typographically attractive head for it. Might set four or five and take your choice of them.

Note in this week's otherwise splendid paper Casey at Bat as filler. You are meeting just what I thought you would ~~xxx~~ when I suggested you subscribe for the UNITED STATES DAILY merely for its excellent filler material. Am enclosing, or mailing separately some fillers from our office. I can send you plenty of good time copy, that is stuff good anytime ~~whenever~~ over a period of several weeks. Do you want it?

We were rather amazed at the interest of Bill Nelson in your ~~xxxxxx~~ candidacy; didn't know you were so friendly. Sort of thought Uncle Ros would be your unofficial campaign manager. By the way, how does Nell Gilbert, Jack Grisham and Hightower stand? Mr. Phillips ought to be able to swing Nell if he isn't already in line.

In any event, I am glad to hear that Dad is determined not to take this business too seriously and I hope to the Lord he will stick by that idea. And I'm hoping that the curiously smug Patton and Duncan, who fear you'll elect the other fellow, get a severe jolt in August.

By all means let me see the "platform" before it's shot irrevocably. Also, don't you plan to use published matter to advance your cause in the final weeks of the race. Would like to hear what you contemplate in this connection. Might even build Democrat circulation during the race. Would announce a week in advance the beginning of the Political Series and give it all the promotion you can, modestly.

Appreciate Mother's sending me the Courier. There is some contrast between the two county papers, in all ways.

Also enjoyed Andrew Horton's airplane ride and will get Pete to book the preacher for a monologue when I'm home. Also huzzahs for the no-fish, no-solon plank in the Walker platform. We may be home the last two weeks in June, or the first two, and I want to talk to you about some final-week-of-the-campaign ~~xxx~~ solicitation of votes by mail.

Seems that this letter is all politics, but guess that's natural in view of the fact that we are just debuting in that field. Glad to hear that Jo and Henry Zeitler are in line, also Feigley who makes a rather good talk, I thought, hearing him last summer.

I agree thoroughly with Mother's view that she can run very quietly, depending, as I would, mainly on trusted friends and their efforts.

Neglected to explain that I hear Martin Egan, press agent for, and Davison, partner in, J.P. Morgan and Co. are supposed to be financially interested in Fortune. For that, and other reasons, the editors prefer to have all articles anonymous. The only by-line so far, they say, has been given to Ernest Hemingway who demanded it, apparently. Haven't heard yet whether they want any more from me or not. I was really rather serious about an Alabama saga and may do it yet--in my declining years.

Well, am sure this covers all the news with us so will conclude this over-long miscellany. With assurances of staunch support (really, belief we'll win) and love to each,

Devotedly,

T. J. M.