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6-7-8 TYSON BUILDING • MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

MAY 27, 1942.

HON. R. H. WALKER, EDITOR
THE LIMESTONE DEMOCRAT
ATHENS, ALABAMA

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

I APPRECIATED MORE THAN I CAN SAY YOUR RECENT LETTER. I AM ALSO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EXPRESSIONS, AS WELL AS BOB HENRY'S, WITH REFERENCE TO FRED TAYLOR'S SPECULATIONS AS TO CHAUNCEY'S CHOICEST CABINET PLACES. I MUST SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE, IN MY OPINION, SPECULATIONS, PURE AND SIMPLE - THAT IS, AS FAR AS MENTION OF ME IS CONCERNED. IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DON'T THINK THAT JUDGE SPARKS WOULD EVER ASK ME TO BE HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY AND I AM SURE THAT IF HE WERE TO, I WOULD DECLINE. I HAVE NEVER BEEN AMBITIOUS TO LAND IN THAT KIND OF JOB - EVEN DURING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH COLONEL GRAVES.

I AM NOW, AND EXPECT ALWAYS TO BE, AN ARDENT NEW DEALER. I ALSO EXPECT TO BE IN ALABAMA POLITICS. FEELING SO, I AM SURE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE WELL FOR ME TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH AN ADMINISTRATION THAT I DO NOT EXPECT TO SUBSCRIBE TO NEW DEAL VIEWS AND PROGRAMS. I THINK THAT JUDGE SPARKS WANTS, AND EXPECTS, TO BE A GOOD GOVERNOR - A CONSTRUCTIVE GOVERNOR. YET, IT WILL BE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO ADJUST HIS THINKING TO THE TIMES - THE NEW DEAL TRENDS - AND IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ADJUST MY THINKING TO WHAT I FEEL WILL BE THE PHILOSOPHY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. THEREFORE, I KNOW THAT I SHALL BE MUCH HAPPIER WHERE I AM - FREE TO SUPPORT SENATOR HILL, WHOM I FEEL HAS BECOME, SINCE GOVERNOR GRAVES' DEATH, THE NO. 1 NEW DEALER AND THE OUTSTANDING LIBERAL OF OUR STATE.

ONE OF JUDGE SPARKS' CLOSE FRIENDS CALLED ON ME TODAY TO SAY THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH HIM YESTERDAY IN EUFAULA. THIS MAN SAID THAT HE WANTED TO PASS ALONG WORD TO ME THAT JUDGE SPARKS SEEMS VERY GRATEFUL FOR WHATEVER CONTRIBUTION I MADE TO HIS CAMPAIGN AND THAT HE FEELS SURE THAT THE JUDGE WOULD WANT ME TO HAVE WHATEVER PLACE IN HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEM ATTRACTIVE TO ME. I IMAGINED I BEWILDERED THIS FELLOW BY SAYING THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT I WANT FOR MYSELF. I TOLD HIM THAT I FELT SURE HE AND JUDGE SPARKS WOULD FIND THAT COLONEL GRAVES HAD A HORDE OF FOLLOWERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO STRONGLY

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BACKED HIS CANDIDACY BECAUSE THEY HAD A GENUINE LOVE FOR HIM, FIRST, AND BECAUSE THEY WERE INTERESTED IN SEEING LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IN A STATE THAT STRONGLY FAVORS LIBERALISM. I TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT BACK JUDGE SPARKS FOR EITHER OF THESE REASONS, BUT BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY MAN LEFT IN THE RACE, FOLLOWING COLONEL GRAVES' DEATH, WHO WAS QUALIFIED TO BE GOVERNOR AND FOR THE FURTHER REASON THAT WE (THE MUNICIPALITIES) HAD A PROGRAM THE PASSAGE OF WHICH MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO ME. WHEN HE HAS HELPED MAKE THIS POSSIBLE, HE WILL HAVE REWARDED ME ADEQUATELY FOR WHAT I DID FOR HIM.

I AM DISTRESSED TO LEARN ABOUT ROS. BY ALL MEANS, HAVE HIM TAKE IT EASY. I SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO GO WITH HIM TO DAYTONA BEACH, BUT IT WOULD BE AROUND JUNE 10 BEFORE I CAN DO SO. IF THAT TIME WOULD SUIT HIM, I SHALL BE GLAD TO TAKE OFF TEN DAYS OR SO AND SPEND WITH HIM.

I APPRECIATED YOUR NOTE ABOUT OUR GOOD FRIEND, MR. ED GILBERT'S WIFE. I SHALL WRITE HIM A NOTE TODAY. I AM VERY FOND OF HIM AND CERTAINLY SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM.

YOU DO NOT SURPRISE ME WHEN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE ACTIVITY OF THE EXTENSION SERVICE CROWD AGAINST YOU. THEY SEEM NEVER TO WEIGH A FRIEND'S CANDIDACY ON THE BASIS OF WHAT HE MAY HAVE DONE FOR THEM IN THE PAST. THE RENZO GUY RACE IS AN EXAMPLE. I MAY BE MISTAKEN, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THAT BUNCH WILL LONG BE SUCCESSFUL.

KEEP ME INFORMED ABOUT ROS AND TELL HIM IF YOU WISH THAT I WROTE YOU THAT I AM GOING TO ASK HIM TO MAKE A TRIP WITH ME TO REST UP A BIT.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES TO MRS. WALKER AND BOB HENRY AND, OF COURSE, THE WARMEST REGARDS FOR YOURSELF, I AM

YOUR FRIEND,



ED E. REID