

March 27,  
1935

Personal

Mr. Jimmy Mills, Editor  
Birmingham Post,  
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Jimmy:

I read your editorial on re-apportionment a few days ago and enjoyed same very much.

I have been trying to stop by Birmingham to talk with you for the past several weeks, but have been in someone else's car and did not feel that I could ask them to wait over. I hope to be able to stop by in the next two or three weeks and I hope in the meantime you will not commit the Post to any plan of re-apportionment, and certainly not to the Hammer Bill. In my opinion any proposed Constitutional Amendment would serve as an effective block to any re-apportionment in the state.

I have a House re-apportionment bill based on 90 members, which I think is quite fair. I have not yet been able to work out the Senate satisfactorily, but will try to do so in the next few days.

In drawing a re-apportionment bill we have got to bear in mind that it will be practically impossible to pass one based strictly on the Constitution. The one that I am working on is what is called the Grouping Plan, and the tentative draft has been endorsed by such advocates of re-apportionment as Farney, Stevens of Oneonta, John Lusk of Gadsden and others with whom I have discussed the matter. A little later on I will submit it to Clint Harrison and other of the more liberal-minded of the Black Belt. If we can then agree on this and get the Governor to endorse the proposed bill I believe it can go through without any unnecessary rangle.

My purpose in writing is to ask that you do not commit yourself until I have an opportunity of discussing the matter with you. I regret that I have not been able to stop and see you during the past three months as before.

Sincerely yours,

RHW:fm

R. H. Walker.

Memorandum.

I am still deeply interested in the proposed loan-shark bill, about which I have frequently spoken to Hubert Vaughn.

R. H. W.