

ESTABLISHED 1894

T. M. & B. A. ROGERS

DEPARTMENT STORE

FLORENCE, ALA.

Feb 16, 1935

COPY

Hon. Lawrence Lee,
Montgomery, Alabama

My dear Mr. Lee:-

I hope that you have had occasion to examine the Bridge Bill recently enacted by the Legislature, authorizing the Governor to appoint a Commission of five Alabamians, who will have authority to borrow money from the P.W. A. for the construction of bridges that are self-liquidating in the State of Alabama.

I am sure you also know that we have a project up here that we have been working on for two years or more and it is now in good shape.

This bridge will be self-liquidating at a toll of 10 cents in less than 20 years based on the present traffic.

George Bliss Jones has just returned from Washington and says that the Legal, Financial and Engineering Departments of the P.W. A. are all sold on this project and I presume that our distinguished Governor had occasion to find this out while he was in Washington.

What I would like for you to do is to talk to the Governor in behalf of our project and ask him to agree to have the adjourned meeting of the Legislature - April 30th - amend this bill and instead of having one Commission have the bill to read "Commissions" thus creating a local Commission wherever there is a bridge to be constructed.

This suggestion will in no wise interfere with the appointment of five Commissioners now, whose appointment is subject to recall by the Governor at his pleasure.

In other words, the present setup means that a man has got to travel all the way from Mobile to Florence to see about a bridge across the Tennessee River in which he practically has no interest, and do so without compensation, for the bill recently passed clearly sets out that he only gets \$1.00 per day for his services.

I am quite sure it would be much more workable and businesslike

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to have the Commission in charge of our Bridge composed of Lauderdale and Colbert County business men, who had a local interest in the project and who would be willing to give it all the time necessary, merely as an opportunity for public service.

I shall be glad at your convenience, to have your reaction to this suggestion.

With best wishes, I am,

Very cordially yours,

T.M. Rogers

TR/MOK.