

111

April 4,
1935

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

Dear Jimmy:

Replying to your letter of March 28, I want to assure you that I have not the slightest intention of not pressing with all possible weight a demand for re-apportionment at this session of Legislature. It would be unpardonable under the present set-up in the Legislature for the friends of this long-needed reform to surrender.

Also it would be extremely unfortunate for the friends of re-apportionment to get at logger-heads over the plan to be finally adopted.

However, in writing a reapportionment bill we have got to bear in mind that there are some small counties that are justly entitled to loose half of their representation in the lower House. According to my views, the best plan is the one that will reduce the membership of both houses, thereby, preventing Jefferson county from having a top-heavy representation. You are no doubt fully aware that every time before we have worked on a strictly population basis the smaller counties, even those which favor this reform, have balked at giving your county 15 or 16 members of the House.

Under the plan which I hope to use in preparing my bill all counties with a population from one to forty-five thousand would be given one representative; from forty-five to ninety thousand two representatives; and from ninety to one-hundred and thirty thousand three representatives. This would give Jefferson county approximately nine representatives. It is possible that we can get the smaller counties to agree to having this number.

As I wrote you last week, I have discussed this plan with Farney Stephens and J. L. D. Byars, both of whom have introduced a re-apportionment bill, and they have heartily agreed to endorse my proposed bill and are perfectly willing to have their bills side-tracked in favor of my plan.

(2)

My plan, as you will observe, is based somewhat on that adopted by the National Congress for representation in the lower House. I am thoroughly unwilling to fail to get re-apportionment through the Legislature simply because I cannot get the ideal plan and I hope you will thoroughly agree with me on this matter.

I have never received a copy of the Loan Shark bill which your Junior Chamber of Commerce is backing. I will be glad to have a copy at your earliest convenience.

Hoping to see you before Legislature convenes on April 30th, I remain

Sincerely yours,

RHW:fm

R. H. Walker.