

**M. L. ROBERTSON**  
FOR  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM CULLMAN COUNTY  
IN  
THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA  
  
CULLMAN, ALA.

October 15, 1934

Hon. R. H. Walker  
Athens, Alabama

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 12th respecting your candidacy for the Speakership of the next House of Representatives, and fully appreciate every statement you make therein.

You have probably known from the outset that I could not be other than for you just as long as there was any chance of your election, and I had hoped that Col. Graves would declare for you at the proper time and thus simplify your election.

It seems now that Col. Tunstall is lining up with South Alabama forces to defeat you, and expects to do so by putting all his strength in opposition to you and of various other candidates, which would give him an advantage with the opposition scattered.

As to the question of TVA legislation and reapportionment, I do not consider either of these questions as of vital importance to Alabama at this time. TVA is more of a North Alabama question, and can be affected but little by anything the Legislature can do. As to reapportionment, I think it well for all of us to be nominally in favor of it to satisfy certain elements of the party, but due to the limitation in numbers of both the House and Senate, I doubt that any reapportionment can ever be agreed upon that will be satisfactory to all sections of the state.

I had thought it wise for you not to push your candidacy too vigorously until after the 15th of next month, as I understand that Governor Graves is to have a conference in Montgomery about this time. We can then get some idea as to the strength of your opposition and also find out just where that strength is. I understand that Governor Graves has said that he does not desire to get into the fight unless compelled to do so, but if he is a real friend of yours it will have a great influence for harmony if he will declare himself at the outset.

I understand that you are writing the membership personally, asking their commitment in your favor, which seems to be the proper thing to do providing you can get the members to commit themselves, but I know that a great many members are disposed to await the decision of Governor Graves as to the proper man for Speaker.

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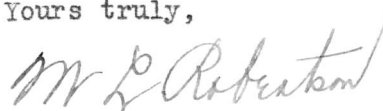
2. Hon. R. H. Walker

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I had a letter this morning from Col. Tunstall in which he makes denial of certain rumors respecting irregularities in the last House Journal. This is the first I had heard of this matter, but if there is any truth in it, it would be good campaign thunder for you.

I hope to keep in touch with you as the campaign for Speaker proceeds, but I would very much regret to see a warm fight over the Speakership which might tend to block legislation later on. Let me hear from you occasionally as to the progress you are making.

Yours truly,



M. L. Robertson

MLR/mw