

ALLEN J. ROULHAC

LAWYER
SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

Feb. 25, 1933

Hon. R. H. Walker
Athens, Ala.

Dear Mr. Walker;

Yours of the 23rd with enclosure has been received and I thank you for sending me a copy of the bill and information regarding same.

I think we would do better to let the bills remain in the committee rather than accept the bill which has been gotten up as a compromise. I object to bill because I oppose giving the Alabama Public Service Commission any jurisdiction over municipal plants. I object to it because it seek to limit the liability of the city and to limit the security for the payment of bonds. This would no doubt make the bonds less attractive and make necessary the payment of higher rate of interest. This bill would make a different rule for cities who acquire such plants after its passage from the one applying to cities now owning their plants. It makes no provision for joint action by cities, and by city and county authorities. The bill does not cover water plants at all.

I see nothing in the bill that is advantageous to cities that we do not have under present laws. I am violently opposed to setting any precedent for any kind of control of municipal utility plants by the Public Service Commission. It is notorious that the action of the Commission is controlled by the Utilities.

A few years ago the Power Com. made an effort to kill the Morris bill and make impossible for public development of natural resources by ~~fixing~~ making it necessary for the U. S. Government to get permit from P. S. C. to build dams in Alabama and to submit to the regulation of all rates to this body. Worthington and other power company lobbyists had the Grave Commission make such recommendations.

The Sosaamer bills are good bills and should be adopted. In case of this kind I think it better to have no traffic with the Power Company. Mr. Glenn is taking a very decided interest in these bills now. The bills were introduced at the last session and favorably reported by the committee to which they were referred. Mr. Glenn took no interest in these bills until after Mess Martin and Turner had appeared in opposition. Mr. Glenn's intention may be good but I think his judgment is rotten. Only a few days ago he felt impelled to make public apology through local press for a wet blanket interview he gave to a Memphis paper in regard to Muscle Shoals development and local conditions. The residents, Elect, many public men, the press and almost every body else had been telling of the wonderful future for this district and it was left to a local official, Mr. Glenn, Mayor of Florence to throw cold water on the whole project and to minimize the possibilities for local development.

It is no doubt true that we could get no bill through at the present session over the opposition of Ala. Power Co. It would be better to fail than to accept their dictitation. By making an effort to pass these bills we might expose the control of public affairs in Alabama, which would serve a good purpose in the future. If the authority is not granted the cities of Alabama by reason of the opposition of Power Co. we might induce the Roosevelt appointed M. S. Commission to build the necessary lines.

With regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Allen J. Roulhac