

Athens, Alabama
7:30 p.m., August 1, 1933

R. H. Walker, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the following is a substantially verbatim account of a conversation he inadvertently overheard between Charles W. Sarver, acting postmaster at Athens, and Donald Isom, a civil service employee in the Athens, Alabama, postoffice, at one end of the telephone line, and a person unknown to the affiant, but evidently from the conversation the other party to the conversation was the Hon. A. H. Carmichael of Tusculumbia, Alabama.

The said Sarver and Isom were talking over the Athens, Ala., postoffice telephone, situated a few feet inside that portion of the said postoffice in front of which said Walker's mail box is located. The affiant declares that he heard the aforesaid conversation while getting his mail from his lock box and while reading same at the postoffice counter near said box. The conversation referred to took place between 5:45 and 5:59 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 1933, during regular postoffice business hours.

As the said Walker approached his mail box in the postoffice he heard Sarver (whose voice he easily recognizes) talking over the telephone as follows:

"That's fine, Judge, I am for you and we'll do all we can to put you over. Donald Isom is here. Let me call him to the 'phone; he'll be for you. Come here, Donald."

The said Isom then came to the telephone and said:

"How are you, Judge? I am mighty glad to hear you are in the race. I voted for you for governor and I'll do all I can for you for Congress. I am for anything that 'Mr. C. W.' wants 100 per cent."

The foregoing remark led the affiant to believe that the party at the other end of the telephone line was the Hon. A. H. Carmichael who had, within that same hour, announced his candidacy for Congress as representative from the Eighth Alabama District.

After said Isom had said a few more words along the same line of thought, he called Mr. Sarver back to the phone saying that "the Judge" wants to speak to you. When Sarver returned to the phone he said:

"Yes, Judge, I'll have your announcement put in the Courier tomorrow. I'll talk to Patton, too. Yes, I'll see you in Florence Friday. I have to go over there Friday to get my car. I had a little wreck last week and had to leave it (the car) there to be fixed. All right, Judge, I'll do all I can for you. We'll go down the line with you."

Hanging up the telephone, said Sarver seemed to feel rather jubilant and cried: "That will break up things over there", or words to that effect.

Said Sarver ~~him~~ and Isom then returned to the stamp window at the front of the postoffice. At this point J. M. Holt, chairman of the Limestone county board of revenue, approached the stamp window and was told by Isom that it was "six bells". Sarver told Isom to wait on Mr. Holt (which he probably intended to do anyway) before closing the window. After buying his stamps, Holt came around the corner of the mail boxes and after a brief conversation with said Walker went out of the postoffice.

Said Walker then went to the stamp window and called to said Isom to open the window and let him have some stamps. When Isom raised the window he and Sarver were standing side by side, both looking somewhat abashed. Walker bought 30 cents worth of stamps and then remarked to Sarver and Isom:

"I suppose I should apologize to you two for overhearing your conversation over the telephone, but I couldn't help it as I glanced through my mail."

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"I suppose I should apologize to you two for overhearing your conversation over the telephone, but I couldn't help it as I glanced through my mail.

Sarver, looking still more confused, said: "What conversation?"

Walker replied: "The one you just had over long distance."

As he was leaving the postoffice, said Walker again encountered Mr. Holt and related to him the conversation which he had just overheard between Messrs. Sarver and Isom, on the one hand, and the party whom he believed to be ~~him~~ the Hon. A. H. Carmichael, on the other hand.

En route to his home, said Walker stopped to converse with Edward Goodrich, city attorney of Athens, Mayor R. H. Richardson, and M. S. Kennemer, another ~~is~~ well known citizen, to whom he also related the apparently flagrant violation by Acting Postmaster Sarver of a civil service regulation even then prominently posted upon the walls of the Athens postoffice, said rule also applying, of course, to Mr. Isom.

The affiant is reasonably certain that the person called "the Judge" to whom Messrs. Sarver and Isom talked was the Hon. A. H. Carmichael for the further reasons:

1) Between 5 and 6 p.m. of the same day (Tuesday, August 1, 1933) the said Carmichael telephoned the residence of the affiant and requested that he (Walker) insert in his newspaper---The Limestone Democrat---the customary legal notice of Carmichael's candidacy for the congressional nomination. In the absence of Mr. Walker, this message was taken by his son, R. H. Walker, Jr.

2) Mr. Isom referred to the fact that he had "voted for you for governor and I'll do all I can for you for congress". Mr. Carmichael is the only candidate in the present congressional race who, insofar as the affiant knows, has ever made a race, successful or otherwise, for the governorship.

SIGNED:

R. H. Walker

STATE OF ALABAMA
LIMESTONE COUNTY

Edw. Goodrich

Subscribed and sworn to before me, ~~this~~ a notary public in and for said state and county, this the first day of August, 1933.

SIGNED:

Edw. Goodrich

Notary Public

My commission expires