

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

July 3rd, 1918.

Hon. A. J. Roulhac,
Sheffield, Ala.

My dear Sir:-

On account of my official duties here and the many business matters I am called on daily to attend to for my constituents in the various departments of the government, I may be deprived of the opportunity and pleasure of seeing you and spending much time, if any, in the District before the primary election, and will depend upon my friends who are on the ground to look after my interest.

The duties of the individual Congressman have never been so manifold and complex. To me have come thousands of appeals for advice and assistance since the war began. Appeals from fathers and mothers, and from the boys themselves. In many cases I have been able to give them valuable assistance, and in every case the appeal has had my personal attention and my best efforts.

I did not vote for the war resolution and sent to each of my constituents my reasons, and whether you agreed with me or not I believe you gave me credit for voting my honest convictions and doing my duty as I saw it at the time. The question as to whether our country should enter the war at that time was one for Congress to decide. That question has long been settled and is not an issue.

The individual opinion and vote of a member on that question was not a test of his loyalty to his country. The true test of a man's loyalty is his conduct during the time his country is engaged in war. I have loyally supported and voted for every measure asked for by President Wilson for the prosecution of the war, and will continue to do so as long as I am your representative.

The conscription or selective draft bill to which I expressed my opposition and helped to defeat, fixed the age limit from nineteen to twenty-six years, with local boards to be composed of army officers. I supported and voted for the selective draft bill which was endorsed by the President and the Secretary of War and which was passed by Congress.

No one here has ever doubted my loyalty to our country, our President, who is the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy during the war, or to our soldier boys. I enjoy fully the confidence and esteem of the administration and of my colleagues in Congress with whom I have been associated for the past three years.

It has been a pleasure to me to work earnestly and continuously for years for the Muscle Shoals development and the location of the nitrate plants, which will always be a great benefit to our section of the country. Further appropriations in large amounts by Congress will be necessary to complete this great water power and navigation project. With my experience as your Congressman I believe I can be of great assistance in bringing this about. I have done, and will continue to do, all in my power to secure every other possible advantage and improvement for our district, especially additional national aid to roads.

We are engaged in the most gigantic war the world has ever known and Congress has never before had such tremendous responsibilities, which will continue during the war. President Wilson in his last message to Congress said we had done our duty well. I do not believe that you will want to change your representative and send one inexperienced in this important work at this critical time.

Assuring you of my grateful appreciation of your generous aid and friendship in the past and asking you frankly as a friend and constituent to consider this letter a personal appeal for your support, your influence and your vote in the Democratic primary on August 13th, which I assure you will be duly and truly appreciated, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Ed B. Almon