

State Teachers College
Florence, Alabama

May 19, 1933.

Honorable R. H. Walker,
Athens, Alabama.

My dear Friend:

This enclosure is sent to remind you of your duty which you took upon yourself yesterday, to assist in turning on the light so that our friend Mills may be able to support the warrant issue.

He indicated very plainly that he would probably support the income tax, but he was doubtful about the warrant issue because of its being "bungled" in its preparation. I don't know who led him to think it was "bungled." It just simply covers what Alabama owes, part of it since 1910-11. The people have had the service. They ought to pay for it, now that they have the opportunity. Certainly they ought not be led into saying, substantially, that they won't pay what they owe, and that's what they will say if they turn down this proposition. Mr. Mills says it would not be repudiation; but it would have that effect in the public mind, and its reflex action on the people of Alabama would be woefully hurtful.

The greatest "bungling" that needs to be cured is the slipshod methods which led us through a quarter of a century into overwhelming indebtedness. That's half cured by the Fletcher Budget Bill. It will be cured when we pay what we owe, or at least agree to pay it. If we vote "no" on the warrant proposition, the job will be "bungled"--and "bungled" indeed.

Keep me out of it.

Sincerely yours,


Henry J. Willingham

W:h

May 19, 1933.

Mr. James E. Mills, Jr., Editor,
The Birmingham Post,
Birmingham, Alabama.

My dear Mr. Mills:

Thank you so much for your letter this morning. It just gives me an excuse to write another word:

From the point of view of your legal friend, there are a number of irregularities, real and imaginary, to the warrant issue.

The greatest irregularity of all in connection with this whole business began in 1910, when the first deficiency occurred in the State's affairs, and it's been growing ever since then. No kind of legislation could be written that will make that sort of continuous thing of the last quarter century regular, or allow it to be condoned. Nobody wants to. The one way to cure it, and the only way to cure it, is to validate these items of indebtedness before the Supreme Court is compelled to announce officially that the whole business of it is illegal, except \$800,000.00. It's no time now to talk about the right of the warrant bill, this way, that way, the other way; but it's time to validate that indebtedness for which the people have had service, some of it beginning twenty-five years ago, and for which the State hasn't paid.

Sincerely yours,

Henry J. Willingham

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