

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.
April 14, 1932.

Hon. R. H. Walker,
Athens, Ala.

My dear Senator Walker:

Your letter was received today containing clipping from the COURIER. I do not understand Kilby's reference to my campaign in 1930. As a matter of fact, I spoke all over the state in 1930. Kilby spoke no where. He took no part in the campaign of 1928 or 1930. I served on the Campaign Committee in 1928.

Burns is right about Horace Wilkinson. Horace Wilkinson is practically the manager of Kilby's campaign. If, by any chance it were possible to defeat me, Horace Wilkinson and that crowd would say that they did it to punish me for defending Alabama Democracy, both in the state and on the Senate Floor, against their assault. Horace Wilkinson is getting out a Kilby paper in Birmingham, called the STATE PRESS. A number of papers have published the statement that Horace Wilkinson is getting out that paper, and I know it to be true. The reporter for the paper came into my office and asked for news and stated that he was employed by Horace Wilkinson.

If your friend, Mr. W. H. Nelson, has any doubt about it, I would like for you to give him to write a letter to Senator Bankhead. Wilkerson and his crowd tried to coerce me against defending Senator Bankhead's election on the Senate Floor, and when they failed to do it, they got Kilby to run for the Senate. I wish you would not only tell this to some of them, but work it into some of your editorials there. There is not the slightest doubt but that it is true and it can be established. I have a letter in my files from a reputable citizen of Fort Deposit, Alabama, who saw a letter from Horace Wilkinson, to a citizen of that county, asking him not to vote for Anderton, but to vote for Kilby. He told him that Kilby was the man who could beat me, and I must be defeated at any cost.

The more I think about the proposition the more I believe it would be better for me to remain in Washington. I was much impressed with your suggestion about the speech

at Muscle Shoals, for instance. My friends in Madison County have all written me that a speech is not needed there; that I will carry the county over-whelmingly; and that as a matter of fact, they doubt the wisdom of it. Of course, if I come to make some speeches, I would have to go to the Muscle Shoals district.

Thank you for sending me the article from Rawls. I am writing Mr. Rawls a short note about the article.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

HUGO L. BLACK

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hugo L. Black", written over the typed name.

W