

THE DIRECT ADVERTISING SERVICE

107 SOUTH 21ST STREET
PHONE 7-1971

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

June 22, 1934

Dear Harry:

Leaving out all the gossip as to "promises", I have a life-sized hunch that you are more than likely to be Speaker of the next house --- if you want it, and I hope you do. If there is anything that I can do here to help line it up for you, say the word. I might say that I'm well acquainted with all the representatives from Jefferson, even intimate with some of them.

Our Democratic Civic Club, which I started during the McCord campaign, has become the more permanent organization that its name now indicates and will file its charter soon. We propose to take an active part in the political life of Jefferson and the state from here on out. We are beginning tonight the study of the history and creed of the Democratic Party, with C. D. Comstock as leader. Later in the year, we hope to invite a number of the party leaders from over the state to speak to us on topics of particular interest. The newspapers are all friendly to the movement, and the interest among the citizens is striking, to say the least.

So you may hold yourself in readiness to speak before this assemblage of political students at some date that will be agreeable later.

I am going to bring up tonight the idea of the Club getting behind at least two reforms that North Alabama needs badly --- reapportionment and a revision of the poll tax laws. In this county, out of nearly 60,000 voters, but 16,000 are paying poll tax. This leaves the elections in the hands of men of forty and over (service men and those who have become exempt through age). Many thousands of younger men would become voters if it were made a little easier for them. They are really interested now for the first time.

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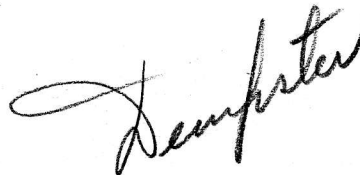
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And if you are made Speaker of the House, I should not at all regret it if I could receive a clerk's job on some of the committees. I can assure the support of Jefferson's delegation, I think, as well as being able to call on my friends Hugh Sparrow and Hubert Baughn, if their support would be worth anything. Just keep that in mind for the future.

Although we separated during the run-off, you and I have looked at party and political matters from the same point of view usually, and I should like to help you in any way that I can during the coming session of the Legislature.

When you come to Birmingham, call me at the above telephone number (you'll have to keep it, as it is not in the telephone book, having been just installed). We are sharing this building with the Holt Sign Company and the listing is in their name. I'd like to talk things over with you, and right now I don't know when I'll be able to get to Athens, although I do expect to come up during the summer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dempster", is written in dark ink.