



ALABAMA

R. H. WALKER, SENATOR
1ST DISTRICT--LAUDERDALE AND
LIMESTONE
ATHENS

SENATE CHAMBER

MONTGOMERY

Athens, Ala.,
Oct. 10, 1934.

Hon. H. M. Doster,
Prattville, Ala.

Dear Mr. Doster:

Immediately after the June primary I wrote you soliciting your vote for Speaker of the next House. Press of business has kept me from calling on you to discuss my candidacy.

During the past few weeks a determined, if under cover, "Stop Walker" has been in progress, some of the leaders of this movement being reactionary Democrats who are fighting the TVA, and politicians opposed to any legislative reapportionment at any time.

As you probably know, I was a leader in the fight for reapportionment in the 1931 Legislature. I expect to continue that fight. Should I be chosen Speaker I would appoint a committee on privileges and elections which would report favorably a just and fair reapportionment bill--and let me say here that such a bill would give the Black Belt full credit for its large negro population just as the congressional apportionment does Alabama. This would give the entire House membership an opportunity to vote on reapportionment and not "smother" it in committee. The present House committee on privileges and elections was deliberately "stacked" so that ~~an~~ even a compromise reapportionment bill in 1931 could get nothing better than an adverse report from that committee.

An attempt has been made to picture me as a "sectional candidate" because of my stand on this question. Since when did it become sectionalism to demand that justice be done to white Democrats in Walker, Houston, Cullman, Covington, Etowah and other counties now discriminated against? Since when did it become sectionalism to demand that the plain mandate of the Alabama constitution be carried out?

In committee appointments I would give every section proportional representation; in my rulings I would be absolutely fair to every member and section of the state.

As to TVA legislation, I emphatically declare that I am whole-heartedly in favor of plans for the development of the Tennessee Valley. I enjoy the blessings of low electric rates; I WANT ~~EVERY~~ ALL OTHER SECTIONS TO SHARE THEM. I deplore and condemn the "sniping" of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the efforts by certain selfish interests and their retainers to defeat the plans of our great Democratic president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, for the social betterment of our people.

I urge you to request other Speakership candidates to declare their position on reapportionment and TVA legislation and policies. I suggest you acquaint yourself with the records of those



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candidates for Speaker now members of the legislature.

I heartily endorse the platform on which Col. Bibb Graves was nominated. I regard it as our party platform. It will be an easy matter for me to help put through his ~~program~~ legislative program either in the Speaker's chair or as a private on the floor, because I heartily endorse it without any mental reservations.

Assuring you that if ~~elect~~ I am elected there will be no "stacked" committees for the benefit of special interests and soliciting your ~~support~~ valued support, I remain

Sincerely yours,