

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA DELEGATION
TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The information which was furnished you in Bulletin No. 1 is supplemented by the following:

The Election of District Chairmen

Under the rules adopted by the State Committee, the five delegates from each of the nine old congressional districts must elect a district chairman. That person has no official function but he is entitled to one full vote as compared to one-half vote for the other four district delegates.

There is no prescribed manner of selecting the district chairman. You may use any method you choose. It is necessary, however, that within the next two weeks you arrive at a chairman for each of the districts. You may have a meeting or you may handle the entire matter by telephone except for signing the necessary form. At least three of the delegates from each district should sign and return one copy of the certification form, a copy of which is furnished to each delegate.

Challenge

As you have doubtless read in the newspapers and by letters which you have received, a resolution has been adopted by the Alabama Independent Democratic Party challenging each of the members of the delegation who will not affirm their support for the national nominee. We have received no official word of the acceptance of such challenge by the Credentials Committee. I am inclined to believe, however, that the Committee will treat this resolution as a valid challenge. In addition, press reports indicate the likelihood of a second challenge from an out of state source.

It will of course be my position that each delegate selected by the people is entitled to his seat. Rather than sit back in a defensive position I propose at an appropriate time to take offensive measures calculated to improve our position over that of the past.

The matter cannot be tentatively resolved before the Credentials Committee meets the week before the election. Some indications may well be apparent before that time however.

I have been informally advised that since the four standing committees (i.e., Credentials, Permanent Organization, Rules, and Platform) begin their meetings before the matter can be finally worked out, it is quite possible that Alabama's representatives on these committees will be required to take a loyalty oath before being allowed to participate in the affairs of the respective committees. The action which I contemplate taking may alter this discrimination against Alabama.

Room Reservations

We have received responses to our request for room reservations from a great many of the members of the delegation. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that those who have not yet sent them in do so as quickly as possible. We very much want to make sure that no member of the delegation will be denied a room because of failure to make a reservation.

The number of rooms allocated to us does not insure more than one room to any member of the delegation. There may be a slight increase in rates over those previously quoted. We will inform you as to the final rate commitment by the hotel as soon as it is received.

Tickets to Convention Meetings

Final arrangements for the Convention have not been agreed upon. At this time, however, the indications are that tickets to the spectators' section of the Amphitheatre will be limited to only about 2,000 seats. Perhaps the situation will improve in the weeks ahead. For the present, however, it appears that tickets to the Convention sessions will be extraordinarily scarce. This probability should be taken into account in making plans for various members of your families to accompany you.

Resignations

We sincerely hope that every member of the delegation will be in a position to join together at the Convention in working constructively for our state. If by reason of health, personal difficulty or other cause, it should become apparent that any member of the delegation will be unable to attend the Convention, it would help greatly if such person would notify us immediately. We will need every possible advantage at the Convention. Last minute replacements may prove to be a very troublesome thing and we ask your cooperation in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

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

Robert S. Vance, Chairman