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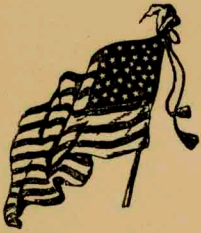
Letter, Sid B. Redding to Republicans of Arkansas

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National Republican League

Vice-President's Office

Little Rock, Ark., March, 1906.

TO THE REPUBLICANS OF ARKANSAS:

Personal friends of the undersigned, representing every section of the State of Arkansas, have announced to the Republicans of the United States that my name will be presented as a candidate for President of the National Republican League at the Golden Jubilee Convention to be held in Philadelphia in June, 1906.

The gentlemen who have joined in this announcement are leaders of the Republican party in this State. An examination of the list of names will disclose the fact that they are men of such standing and influence as to justify the assumption that they are entitled to a hearing upon a matter of this kind, and represent all conflicting interests among the Republicans of Arkansas.

I now wish to thank these friends for their kindness and courtesy in putting forth this announcement.

As we view the situation, the announcement is sent to the country in a spirit of harmony, of party unity, and with the hope that no gentleman will lessen the effect of Republican Club work by attempting to bring into the affairs of the National League or of the Arkansas Republican State League, matters which do not belong to League work. The Constitutions of both the National and Arkansas State League forbid the Leagues as organizations to become involved in disputes over Federal or State offices, and individual League workers are left free to express their choice in such matters.

On account of my personal friendship for certain Pulaski County Republican candidates for Federal positions, whom I had been instructed by the Pulaski County Republican Committee to support, a few parties have caused an attack to be made on me in a Democratic newspaper of this city to the effect that I shall have opposition, as a candidate for President of the National Republican League, from members of my own party. I have ignored this element of opposition, since by an open and frank reply to these criticisms some things might have to be said which hereafter would be used by opposing political parties as ammunition against fellow Republicans. These persons caused a circular letter to be sent out stating that there will be two or more candidates for the National League presidency from this State. No such candidates have appeared, and among party leaders who are posted in such matters, it is the opinion that no bona fide candidate will appear.

The suggestion has been made that nothing should be done now concerning National League matters, and that such opposing candidate or candidates should come forward at the next State Convention of the Arkansas Republican State League, seeking the endorsement of the League. Such a proposition is unreasonable, and not worthy of serious consideration. If there are any other candidates in Arkansas for the National League presidency, it is of course their privilege to also enter the contest, and in all fairness they should do so at this time, in order that the Republicans of the State may know who they are and their qualifications to fill the position.

A call for a State League Convention has not been issued, and after reasonable time has been given the Republican clubs of the State to re organize, a convention could not now be held previous to May 15th. After the latter date, and allowing time for the trip to Philadelphia, where the National Convention begins on June 17th, less than thirty days would be given an Arkansas candidate to conduct a campaign for the National League presidency in fifty-two States and Territories among the representatives of eight million Republicans.

Any Arkansas Republican who would attempt such a brief campaign in such a vast area would meet with disastrous defeat at Philadelphia.

The question is, shall the Republicans of this State throw away this opportunity to win an additional laurel as a compliment to their aggressiveness and active work for the principles which we all love so well? The fact that we have had both the positions of National Treasurer and Vice-President-at-Large has been the subject of general comment and pleasant references to our State League organization. Any Arkansas candidate who hopes to gain the national presidency should have been at work even several weeks ago in the United States at large. Only ninety days remain for an active campaign.

In compliance with the advice of my friends, I therefore announce that I formally enter this Contest and am in the Fight to a finish. I shall, with the help of many loyal League workers, bend every energy to win this prize.

It would be political cowardice to begin this National Contest in the name of Arkansas Republicanism and of our "COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED," and then abandon it because all Arkansas Republicans are not agreed on the subject of Federal patronage.

If we are organized only for spoils we can very properly cast aside a chance for a National League Presidency and fight over the offices. We suggest, however, that if the honest, loyal Republicans of this State become aroused they will say that we should first win National party recognition and make the distribution of Federal patronage a secondary consideration.

Under the Constitution of the National Republican League, I am one of the Four Executive Officers of the League, and am, therefore, a servant and an official of Republican League workers in every State and Territory of the Union. Since this is true, I now go directly to Republican Leagues in all the States for conference relative to the announcement which Arkansas Republican Leaders have given to the Press in my behalf.

For nearly fifteen years the writer has been active in State and National League work. For eleven years in National League Conventions, I have been extending the acquaintances and broadening the friendships which have given me two National League offices, and with this as a basis, and with assurances of support in all parts of the United States, I shall vigorously press this contest.

Should not eleven years of active work and extended acquaintance count for something in endeavoring to secure this honor for Arkansas Republicanism?

I am grateful to Republican friends in every county of the State for past support, and trust I will receive your active aid in this contest, in which event, I confidently believe I will bring home, from the Golden Jubilee Convention, a trophy intended more as a compliment to the entire Republican party of Arkansas than as a reward for the work of an individual.

Sincerely yours,

SID B. REDDING.