

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
September 24, 1940

Mr. S. B. Whitaker,  
Moore, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I have your recent letter questioning my course in supporting Willkie. You venture to call me a great statesman, and then proceed to criticize me for the course that involves that knowledge. Do you call yourself a statesman? If you do not, then why judge statesmen?

Remember Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, after serving in the United States Senate for 30 years, was defeated, and the following year ran for congress and was defeated, and within the space of two years was defeated for Governor of Missouri, because new issues had arisen, and his party had taken a reverse position to his.

Also Blair of Missouri, did like service, and he carried his party over to the Republicans as a result of the issues of the Civil War, then carried it back to the Democratic party. He, like Benton, was scourged and slandered, even by their friends, but when the Statuary Hall at Washington was opened to the states, Missouri put, at the expense of the tax payers, the statues of these two great statesmen, whom, in the closing days of their careers the people had repudiated, because they awakened to the fact that, as statesmen, they followed their judgments and conscience.

Remember also, that Sam Houston, who carved the Republic of Texas out of the wilderness, was rotten-egged in 1857 for his position on Slavery. He, too, was later honored. Likewise, I should dishonor myself, my past record, and stultify my own mind and conscience, did I support a man for President, or congress, who stands for the New Deal, for in no sense are the principles of the New Deal in line with Jefferson, Jackson, or any other great Democrat of the past.

Knowing the history of the rise and fall of Republics in the past (and there were 200 in the middle ages) I know from that past history and record, that this Republic will go down, if the New Deal be continued, and if Roosevelt is elected the third term.

Then you will say Murray was right, but that compliment will do me no good, and you and I both will lose our liberty.

#2 S. B. Whitaker

You, in a veiled way, intimate that I am paid. This is not in keeping, and you know it, with my record in the past. In the past I have refused even to speak under a democratic committee when speaking for the party, because they would undertake to control what I would say. I have either paid my own expenses or received expenses from my friends, and that is the case in this contest.

I make a personal sacrifice in doing what I now do. I could have gotten a job at \$6,000 a year, within five months after I left the Governor's office in 1935, but of course, I would have had to stultify myself, and in the future could not have respected myself any more than can Josh Lee and Elmer Thomas, or these other coat tail riders in the United States congress, and since then, the New Dealers, doubtless directed from Washington, have made themselves busy to prevent towns from permitting me to lecture on non-political subjects, by which means I sought to live- first trying to buy me with patronage; they now try to starve me; but I shall fight the New Deal until it be destroyed, or it destroys the Republic, for one or the other is bound to crack.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. H. Murray