

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WILL H. HAYS
CHAIRMAN

19 WEST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

February 16, 1921.

CONFIDENTIAL

Hon. R. H. Todd,
San Juan,
Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Todd:

I want to write you frankly and of course in strictest confidence about the matter of going into the cabinet. The President-Elect has indicated his wishes in the matter, and I have got to pass upon it right away.

As I go over the matter, it seems to be the thing to do. The doubt has not arisen, of course, from any failure on my part to appreciate the offer. I do this, thoroughly, and feel deeply the honor and responsibility incident to the matter. My interest, however, is only measured by the opportunity for service.

I am very much concerned, of course, about the continuing successful activity of the National Committee, and I know it is the wish of every member of the Committee that this continue. I am sure it can be planned in a way that will bring as certainly the successful consummation of another period of activity as we had this campaign. It is a different kind of politics, but is just as certainly possible in its successful operation, though very much different in its planning and application.

If the President's wishes and the eventualities should bring me into the Cabinet, then I think I should resign as Chairman of the Committee pretty soon after the new plan of organization is developed. I am entirely impersonal in any suggestions I make in this regard but I feel that it is probably desirable that we work out the new plan of the organization very definitely and get it in operation before there is any change. Frankly, I do not think we can fully plan it until the new government is in operation and we have been able to see just how the natural governmental functioning coordinates properly with the politics. After a little while we could very much better plan the political program to be followed by the Committee, and, as above suggested, I would like to get this all worked out and going before there is any change. It will not take long and I know we can do it, but I am sure we cannot as successfully work out the plans now as we can after the party has been in charge of the government for a little while.

With that in mind it would be mi idea, if you concur, that maybe I better not resign at the March meeting, but let that come along a little later after we get things going in the new way. Of course, I want to be governed by the ideas of the Committee in this regard.

As you know, there is the matter of the southern representation to come up at this meeting for some general discussion. I would be glad if you would write me fully what your ideas are in this regard so that I can get them fully to the sub-Committee. I think the meeting will be interesting and be very much in the nature of a ratification. I certainly hope you will be there.

With assurances of my sincerest friendship and very best wishes always, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. C. Coker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed phrase "Sincerely yours,".

hsst