

Texas Equal Suffrage Association

11

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Dear M.F.C.,

Just back from Houston where we have been pulling Mrs. Moore through a serious attack of ptomaine poisoning. We went up on Thursday to attend the Texas War Stamp Conference and she was taken ill that night. Her own doctor was away and his wife sent a doctor names Robbins. Now isn't that the one you came down from New York with? H. is better today but will not get up until Monday.

I went to Waco and found that Mrs. Rotan and the Mister are in Boston. Mrs. Cameron was also out of the city but will be back soon. Mrs. Foster promised to do something at once and I only hope to Heavens she will do it big enough. While in Waco I spoke to four meetings on Registration and Hobby and had a conference with the Suffragists on Ward organization.

About Oklahoma: I sent you a letter ten days ago setting forth some views and asking you to wire me. From your letters I judge that you did not get it. I sent it care of Suffrage House, have sent you several there.

I am afraid that I am not able to go to Oklahoma during the hot weather for campaign work. I judge from the few things that I have been able to learn of conditions there that it will be ground work such as going into unorganized towns and "bumming" a meeting up before you can speak. It has turned very warm here and last week I had a sick spell after speaking that the Doctor said was a touch of heat prostration. Of course I would not be having such silly things if I had not spoken ninety three times during the Liberty Loan Drive and kind of run down. The War Stamp people want me to make a speaking trip for them during their June drive. That will be speaking only and not so hard. I have said that I would give them from June first until June twenty eighth. I held my answer for ten days waiting your wire but had to reply yesterday. They will pay my expenses and salary. The Hobby Committee want me to speak and as we shall have to work against Ferguson it seemed to me better to have them finance it. So I have told them that barring your objection I would give them from the twenty eighth until election at expenses and salary. Also may give them some dates

next week at same rate. I am charging both of these concerns ~~by~~ by the week. Fifty a week. That is my price for anything that is not Suffrage. Going up!

H. and I have been talking over publicity for the Convention. The dates do not seem to be well known. What do you think of these plans.

No.1. To run a full page display in the Austin American and Gal. Dal. News of the Officers of the Ass'n. and a tale of it being the first Honest to God meeting of women voters to discuss politics in Texas. Run that as a Sunday feature on May. 26th.

No.2. To run a story in all papers reachable with the picture of the nearest celebrity that will be a delegate and a picture of you and one of some one of the state officials. The one that comes from the part of the state in each case.

To get up a tale for general publication over the entire state featuring the fact that the women are to meet to celebrate and also to plan their future life as voters. That last will bring us a flock of anxious ones who will hang around the Driskill and look worried.

And by the way I am having a dress made for the big meeting. It is ~~named~~ "Miss Politics" and it is a sure enough vampire gown. For these many years we have had to camouflage the men with our innocence but now I will appear in my true colors as the Village Vamp. Have a letter on file from Mrs. Webb to show you on your return that will prove once and for all that I am a Theda Bara.

Mrs. McCallem sends a program. She has not the ~~idea~~ put the Governor on. I am writing her and asking why not. If you do not want him to speak and have not told her so you had better wire her to that effect immediately. If you do it may be well to wire her to try and get him. It seems to me that he should be given an opportunity to speak as a matter of courtesy as he signed the bill. And also we do not wish to lose an opportunity to make his election secure. Jim is doing a lot of work and getting himself introduced by women all over the state and is making headway that is appalling. I want to the Commerce Mothers Congress Convention to speak. They had asked for you but were willing to accept me and I was distressed to death at the idea they had of Ferguson. And last Wednesday night I spoke in Texas City and read his title to Glory clear. The first speaker was a man from Galveston who said that he did not think that Mr. Ferguson was the man for the place but that he did not approve of making unpleasant criticism of a man who was offering for so high an office. I rose when my time came and said that I thought

that the fact that a man asked for ~~so~~ high an office in so critical a time made it essential that we indulge in criticism either pleasant or unpleasant as the case ~~deserves~~. merited, and that in this case I had no hesitancy in saying just what I thought of a man who was a self confessed thief and at the same time thought that he was worthy of a position of public trust. There was a deep wide silence and then they laughed until I was alarmed. After the meeting one of the men said that they had decided to lay off of F. as he had some strong supporters in the audience. Well they got some frank opinions from me and on the whole I am very glad that I said all that I did.

Please wire us if you have other plans for the Convention publicity. Meanwhile I will write to all state officers for their pictures. Otherwise we will not get them in time. As we do not know when you will arrive we will go ahead until we hear from you. I am so glad that you are being in Washington at so critical a time both because I know you will enjoy it and also because you will be able to show the National what a peach of a lobbyist you are. In addition to your "good Looks". Isn't she the perfect purple cow? I am crazy to get the whole of that story. She was to speak at the Bankers Convention the afternoon of the day that I spoke. They asked me to go and I yawned and said "Confidentially I have heard this speech four times and as she never varies it I believe I will take a nap" They said "Oh does she make the same speech" And I said Always. "Cat" but I don care.

I have a thousand things more to tell you but they will most of them keep and the work that is waiting will not so addios and let me know when you will return to home and mother. I have the calf penned up and am feeding him peanuts.

Love as ever,

Vernie