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May 26, 1960

Honorable Farris Bryant
Ocala, Florida

Dear Farris:

As you know, I have been chairman of the Constitution Committee of The Florida Bar for the past fourteen years. I have also served on the Florida Constitution Advisory Commission named by the legislature in 1955, and assisted the Special Constitution Committee in 1959.

Drafts of a proposed constitution were prepared by these committees, but the 1959 draft was not submitted to the people. The 1957 draft was submitted by the legislature to the people, but the Secretary of State was enjoined from putting it on the ballot because of the "daisy chain" effect which provided that the failure to adopt any one article would cause the others to fail. See the case of Rivera-Cruz v. Gray, 104 So. 2d 501.

The Constitution Committee consists of approximately seventy-five members scattered throughout the State of Florida. We have prepared a tentative draft based on the previous drafts, and the West Publishing Company has agreed to print 10,000 copies without expense to The Florida Bar, and as a courtesy to our profession. I am going to have them send one to every lawyer in the state, every legislator, every newspaper, and to the various leagues of women voters. I will ask them all to study this tentative draft and let us have any suggestions and criticisms they have so that at a three day meeting which I am calling this fall our committee can consider all suggestions and put our tentative draft in final form for submission to the legislature.

I think we have a very fine constitution prepared, one that the progressive State of Florida needs. Florida is now operating under a constitution written

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in 1885 when there were approximately 500,000 people in the state, and there was no such thing as rapid communication and transportation, paved roads, and other modern improvements. I think we need a constitution which will be more suitable to the needs of the ten million people who will live in Florida in the next ten years. I expect a two or three million increase during your new administration.

I need the names of all the newspapers in the state, and it occurred to me that you would have a list of them which you used in your recent campaign. If you would send me a list of all the newspapers and their addresses, I would appreciate it very much. I want to work closely with you in this attempt to get a better constitution for the State of Florida, and I will send you a copy of the tentative draft as soon as it has been printed by the West Publishing Company.

Permit me to congratulate you on your overwhelming victory, and also to congratulate myself on not losing my vote.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

D. H. Redfearn
D. H. Redfearn

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