

March 1, 1960

Dear Steve:

Here's the rundown on Carlton's turnpike record of 1953, but tell Bud he must use it during the second week in March. We have reliable information that Carlton is going to hit McCarty with McCarty's defeat as Tax Collector in 1948 along about March 15, and it is imperative that Bud level this dope at Carlton before that time. So, if McCarty should beat us to the punch on this thing, he'll weaken Carlton's attack on him, and we don't want that either.

The man who gets the headlines for this charge against Carlton is going to pick up tremendous favorable response in Dade and other East Coast counties, and it's got to be Bud. McCarty is in fair shape down there already, and if he should use this first he may be a cinch to run off with that area where he is hurt now due to Lowery.

McDermott knows about this record himself (confidentially), but will never use it until someone in the race makes the charge, but he has been ORDERED to use it when, and, if the charge is so made. He also knows about McCarty's defeat as Tax Collector and is primed for a big story on that one when Carlton pulls the string on March 15. Don't let Bud second guess us on this thing. We've thought it out all the way, and we know what we're talking about.

Here's exactly what we want you to do. First, send out an advance story to AP in Tallahassee and Miami, and to U.P.I. in same two cities. Get it out on Wednesday, March 9, but mark it for release on Saturday, March 12, 6:00 p. m., so it will hit all Sunday papers. Start your release on this order: "On Saturday, March 12, I will be speaking at (such and such an event at 4:00 p. m. or about that time) and I will make this charge against Doyle Carlton." Then follow with our story. Be sure Bud understands that he must use it at the time indicated. If necessary, it can be "at a meeting of my campaign organization" in whatever county he will be in.

Then mail same story to all weeklies by Saturday, March 11, for their print the following week, but re-write, of course, to make past tense and so on. DON'T give McDermott advance notice. He's Carlton's personal press agent, and you'll have Carlton all set with the McCarty election defeat

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thing too soon, or some other set up.

Now, here's the suggested copy, and it's all checked out for accuracy:

"Saturday afternoon at a _____, Senator Bud Dickinson unloaded both barrels at his opponent, Doyle Carlton, for what he called "Proof positive that Carlton is anything but a South Florida candidate, but is the favorite son of the pork choppers all the way." Dickinson then blasted Carlton for his stand on the South Florida Turnpike in the 1953 session.

"While I dislike making pointed charges at one man," Dickinson stated, "the people of our area and all other sections of Florida have the right to know where every candidate stands on issues of vital importance to them. I have been waiting for Doyle Carlton to make an honest revelation of his anti-turnpike record as a Senator in 1953, but I guess that was wishful thinking. Since the Miami Herald seemingly has no inclination to bring the facts to the people, it is now my responsibility to do so. The fact is that if Carlton had had his way there would be no turnpike today, nor any other time.

"Here's the record", Dickinson continued. "In 1953 Carlton was one of the most powerful voices in the State Senate, and he was the Senate leader in attempting to kill the South Florida Turnpike.

"Senator Bunn Gautier of Dade County introduced Senate Bill 438 calling for a turnpike to run from Miami to about Stuart, Florida. On

second reading Senator Amos Lewis proposed an amendment extending the turnpike the full length from Miami to Jacksonville. Carlton voted AGAINST this amendment and led the way to its defeat.

"Then", the fiery Senator from Palm Beach County related, "that same day Senator Shands moved that the Senate re-consider the action on the Lewis amendment -- in other words, that the turnpike be extended to Jacksonville. This time, those of us who were working our heads off to get the bill through were able to get the amendment passed, but Carlton voted NO again.

"That meant that we could again vote for the full length turnpike, and we were able to overcome Carlton's opposition by a single vote, 20 to 18, with Carlton again voting AGAINST the bill.

▲ Dickinson then referred to later action whereby the bill was cut back to Gautier's original proposal of 110 miles in the House of Representatives. Subsequently, the bill came back to the Senate in the 110 mile form desired by Gautier. "We accepted that compromise", Dickinson admitted, "but only because we knew there wouldn't be any turnpike at all if we fought the Carlton forces further. This time the bill was passed by voice vote which gives us no record of Carlton's vote, fortunately for him, but I can tell you that he did everything he could to swing the Senate against even the shorter length.

▲ Dickinson concluded with the charge that "Carlton is as ardent an enemy of South Florida interests as any pork choker could be, but he's got

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a crowd down in Dade County who have successfully covered up for him to date. I suggest that they take a good look at their conscience and come over to a team which is trying hard to elect a man with a proven record of South Florida service. That man is Bud Dickinson who lives, works and represents all of South Florida in South Florida, and whose record proves his loyalty."

Then, footnote your story with the following authorities:

"REF: Senate Journal 1953, Pages 161,269, 303, 368, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 527, 528, 938, 954, 1307.

Don't let Bud slip up on this. We've gone to a lot of trouble to set it up just right, but if someone beats him to it he'll get all the benefit of our preparation. We'll score big in Miami, and our guy in the Herald tells us that he thinks the paper will actually re-consider what seems to be their present idea of endorsing Carlton. If McCarty should beat us to this thing, he might be a cinch, and even if Bryant hits with it first, it might conceivably do it for him.

Call me on my home phone after you have set this up with Bud. It's as per his own idea, you will note.

Good luck,

Rudolph