

January 7, 1952

Representative C. O. Andrews, Jr.
P. O. Box 353
Orlando, Florida

Dear Charlie:

In a few days you will receive a notice from the Executive Director to the effect that the annual meeting of the Citizens Constitution Committee has been called for two p.m., Tuesday, January 29, at the Gulfport Community Building, Gulfport, Florida. Gulfport is a city just west of, and adjacent to, St. Petersburg. A meeting of the Executive Committee has been called for nine a.m. at the same place and a meeting of the board of directors at ten a.m. following. I hope you will find it possible to attend these meetings.

As you know I have served as Chairman since the inception of the Committee and feel that there should be a change made for the reasons that we have discussed several times in the past. I should like to suggest that we elect Mr. J. Peter Knowles as Chairman. Mr. Knowles in the past has served on the New Jersey committee for constitutional revision and was Chairman for Bergen County. He has served for the past year as vice-chairman for the Miami district and I believe would make a good chairman for the COB. I have not approached Mr. Knowles on this, but from external evidence have some reason to feel that he could be encouraged to serve as our chairman, at any rate I should like to see that his name is placed in nomination.

On December thirty-first I shipped the manuscript for my two volume history of Florida and should now have more time for other things. However, I am fully convinced that I can serve the cause of constitutional revision in Florida better if I, as an employee of the university, remain in the background. I knew that work that I could do on the vitally needed program of research, something that we did not have in the last two years, would be of more value.

I realize that we had many sins of omission and commission in the past. I would appreciate it very much if you would give me the benefit of your candid opinion on what program and procedures we should undertake in the future. It seems to me that we are at a crossroads and that we should either do something positive or stop wasting our time. May I have your ideas on this.

With my best wishes for a joyous New Year, I am

Sincerely,

J. E. Devall