

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
GAINESVILLE

February 27, 1952

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

106 Peabody Hall

Representative C. Farris Bryant  
Coala, Florida

Dear Farris:

Many thanks for your speedy answer to my letter with the statement for the candidates re: constitutional matters. With your answer and those of Mrs Killen and Charley Andrews, I need only one more to prepare the smooth copy. Mrs Killen thought we should reverse the order on preferences for revision and place the convention choice first-- I do not agree as I think that would make the question seem to be "loaded." Probably most of the candidates will check revision by sections or articles regardless of the order on the statements; and, it doesn't make much difference anyhow as far as I have observed the last three sessions of the legislature.

Charlie Andrews was satisfied with the statement as written but thought the words "as amended" should be removed when describing the present 1885 constitution in the first paragraph. With this I agree, for the sake of psychology if for nothing else-- I will remove them.

I will rewrite the second recommendation as you suggest: "The legislative article (Article 3) should be amended so as to include provisions for annual sessions, annual salaries, the length of the annual sessions to be set by the legislature."

My only hesitancy in revising the recommendation re: the legislative commission to be established "by acts of the Democratic caucus in Tampa in July, 1952" is a possible conflict with a proposition presented by Senator Henry Baynard at the January meeting. Baynard suggested that the Citizens Constitution Committee (Executive Committee) should select a very few persons to call upon the Democratic nominee selected in the May primaries with the purpose of asking the successful candidate to appoint a small commission of citizens to prepare a short study or report on constitutional revision; such study or report to be presented to the public shortly after inauguration in 1953. Baynard felt that both Dan McCarty and Bralley Odham would favor such a move; that either of them might even suggest some consideration of one or two other subject areas, such as a merit system or central purchasing. I think most of us agreed that Alto Adams would not be particularly favorable to appointing such a citizen group.

If the Democratic nominee for governor did appoint such a group, he could well feel that an ensuing report was in large measure his report and would support it in many ways. Dan's stand on revision is forthright and from the shoulder, as it was in 1948. In his talk to the meeting at Gulfport Bralley, too, engaged in no pussy-footing or shadow boxing. What do you think of Senator Baynard's idea? I like your idea of presenting the matter to the July caucus, and so am torn between two thoughts on this recommendation.

My last trip to Coala fell through. Will you be in Coala next week? What about a luncheon visit, any day but next Tuesday, to meet you at noon or any afternoon at your office-- how is your calendar?

Sincerely,

J. E. Duvall