

Lake Providence, Louisiana
 June 14, 1962

Honorable Jimmie H. Davis, Governor,
 State of Louisiana,
 Capitol Building,
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Honorable Wade O. Martin, Jr.,
 Secretary of State,
 State of Louisiana,
 Capitol Building,
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Honorable Hugh E. Cutrer,
 Director, Board of Registration,
 State of Louisiana,
 Pentagon Courts,
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Honorable Sam K. Mitchiner,
 President,
 East Carroll Parish Police Jury,
 Lake Providence, Louisiana.

Dear Sirs:

Recently, in a Federal Court case in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, I, as Registrar of Voters for East Carroll Parish, Louisiana, was ordered to perform the duties of my office consistent with the laws and Constitution of the United States of America. This decree contained numerous words and phrases which, as a Layman, I find difficult if not impossible to understand. I am not trained in the law and I do not have legal advice available to me at every hour of the day. Therefore, it is necessary in the conduct and performance of the duties of my office that, at times, I rely upon my own judgment.

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*Resignation has been accepted AS OF June 14, 1962
 by Hugh E. Cutrer, Jr.
 State of La. Bd of Registration*

Honorable Jimmie H. Davis et al.

Page 2

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I have been reliably informed that I can be subjected to contempt proceedings and possible imprisonment for failure to comply with every mandate of the decree even though my failure might stem from the exercise of bona fide judgment. Naturally, I do not wish to subject myself to embarrassment nor would I wish to be faced with possible imprisonment which might result from a technical violation of the decree. For these reasons, I would like to resign the duties of my office.

Each of you knows that the financial remuneration of my office is small and it is impossible for me to reconcile the responsibilities and dangers inherent in the performance thereof now imposed upon me by the laws of Louisiana and the language of the Federal Court decree with the small salary which I now receive. Under the circumstances, I cannot justify further performance of the duties of my office on the basis of salary.

I have heard rumors that complaints have been made against me regarding the performance of my duties as Registrar to the Federal authorities. I have honestly and in good faith attempted to abide in every respect with the terms of the Federal Court decree as well as with the requirements of Louisiana law. Despite the exercise of my duties in good faith, and in a manner which I believe fully complies with the law, both State and Federal, I have learned that the complaints issued against me might well generate a contempt proceeding against me. I am not prepared to engage in time consuming activities which might result from the rumored complaints, particularly long drawn-out litigation connected with those types of proceedings. Furthermore, the embarrassment customarily associated with such proceedings would no doubt cast some adverse reflection upon my character and my abilities to perform the duties of my office. I am not prepared to undergo the embarrassment or expend the great amounts of time required in such instances.

In view of the conditions recited above, I am unable

Honorable Jimmie H. Davis et al.

Page 3

to continue as Registrar of Voters for East Carroll Parish, Louisiana. I therefore tender you my resignation of office as Registrar of Voters for East Carroll Parish, Louisiana, my resignation to be effective as of this date.

Respectfully,

Cecil E. Manning
 Cecil E. Manning,
 Route 2, Box 99-K,
 Lake Providence, Louisiana.

CEM/dm

cc: Honorable Jack P. F. Gremlion
 Attorney General, State of Louisiana
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Honorable Thompson L. Clarke,
 District Attorney, Sixth Judicial District,
 St. Joseph, Louisiana

✓ Honorable Judge Ben C. Dawkins, Jr.,
 United States District Court, Western
 District of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana.

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