

J. J. Williams Begged E. H. Crump for His Support in This Race for Mayor

Now Abuses Him Because He is for Rowlett Paine and the Citizens' Ticket

I regret exceedingly that Mr. J. J. Williams, candidate for mayor of Memphis, has seen fit to drag me into the present political contest. I had hoped very much that I would be permitted to cast my vote in this election without being falsely and maliciously attacked, and my motives impugned.

Mr. Williams came to my office in August and requested me to help him in his race for mayor. He also sent numerous friends to see me with the same request. I told them all that I did not expect to take any active part in the city campaign, any more than any other citizen would do in casting his ballot, because it was not my fight. Therefore, he is unfair, unmanly and inconsistent, both with me and with the public, and is displaying the tactics usually resorted to by the beaten man. However, this is but in line with his forty years of cunning and treachery.

I have lived in Memphis continuously for twenty-seven years, and although during that time, and for long years before, Mr. Williams has been running for office, and sometimes has been elected, either through trickery or pleas for sympathy, I have never voted for him, for the reason that he has been always tied hand and foot by the public service corporations against the interests of the people.

Mr. Williams denied the public the right to audit the city books when he was mayor. When that audit was finally made, after an order from the supreme court, important records carrying large expenditures were destroyed. No man should be intrusted with the taxpayers' money who cannot show a better record than that.

Mr. Williams was defeated for mayor in 1894 by Lucas Clapp. The following year he engaged in the banking business as president of the Bank of Shelby. That bank received deposits from poor people up to the day it failed, carrying great suffering to many who could not afford the loss.

In 1896, after the bank's failure, Mr. Williams began his sympathetic plea that he was down and out, and needed a job, notwithstanding he had been living on the public for fifteen years previously. He prevailed on Mayor Clapp's friends to assist him in being elected county trustee, upon the assurance that he, in turn, would be the friend of Mayor Clapp. Yielding to this strong plea for sympathy, Mayor Clapp finally consented to help him, and Williams was elected.

However, in 1898, Mr. Williams, forgetting his obligation to Mayor Clapp, ran against that official, and with the aid of Ex-Mayor D. P. Hadden, who ran for vice-mayor with him, Mr. Williams was elected by a small majority.

During that race Mr. Williams, as county trustee, had charge of the poll tax books. Charges were made that poll tax receipts were given to his supporters and no record made of them officially. Mr. D. P. Hadden always claimed that Mr. Williams promised to make him city judge, but tricked him to get his support, and then went back on his pledge.

Mr. Williams gave the people of Memphis the highest tax rate in the city's history, which was \$2.88, and also the next highest, which was \$2.54.

During Mr. Williams' administration insurance rates were raised. The streets of Memphis were almost like country dirt roads, muddy or dusty, and always full of holes. The city was poorly lighted. No subways or sidewalks were built. No juvenile court protection was afforded young girls and boys. Garbage collection was scarcely attempted. During Mr. Williams' eight years' incumbency as mayor there were practically no progressive measures attempted. He claims credit for the parks, when, in fairness, it should be stated that the late Col. Hu L. Brinkley was the creator and father of the present park system.

If every man and woman in Memphis who owns an automobile or vehicle of any kind and wants good streets will inquire into the condition of the streets when Mr. Williams was mayor they will not cast their votes this time for one who was so indifferent to the construction and repair of city thoroughfares as his history shows him to have been. So bad was his record in this respect that he was dubbed "Mud Hole Joe." While I warn the auto owner not to vote for Mr. Williams because he knows nothing but bad streets, at the same time I do advise the "Pull In" man to support Mr. Williams, because he could expect plenty of business.

If every man and woman who rides on a street car, or uses the telephone, gas or electric lights, would investigate Mr. Williams' record in siding with the public service corporations, and against the people, I am sure they would not vote for him. No matter what statement he may now make, he believed in giving them everything they wanted when he was mayor, and the people know that the street car company now wants a seven-cent fare or better; the gas and electric light company wants a raise, and the telephone company is demanding an increase in rates. If the corporations do not want him, and there is not some understanding, why does he want to give up a quiet, easy, well-paying county job, which he got last year by eleven votes in a three-cornered race upon a sympathetic plea that he wanted to "wind up his career," for the mayor's job with its many troubles and smaller compensation?

Mr. Williams claims that I have interfered with the Monteverde-Quinn administration. This is absolutely false. The mayor nor any city commissioner can truthfully say that I have asked for any man's appointment or dismissal. Nor that I have asked for the approval or rejection of any measure before them, with the exception of the six-cent street car raise, which I opposed, and the referendum vote on the telephone rate increase, in which I took an active part to secure signatures to the referendum petition, for the benefit of the people of Memphis. Mr. Williams declined to sign this referendum petition, following his usual partisanship for the public service corporations against the interests of the people.

Mr. Williams disposed of his property at 2006 Young avenue and removed to Walls Station, Miss., where his wife owns a valuable plantation. He later built a home on the lower Horn Lake road at Poplar Corner, and in 1915 he registered under oath and voted at Horn Lake Depot in the general state and county August primary, which is the main election in Mississippi. Later his name was cut out of the election records at Hernando. His son and his nephew had asked to inspect the election records in the record room before Mr. Williams made his public announcement for mayor.

This is the third time that public records have been tampered with or destroyed where Mr. Williams hoped to be the beneficiary.

Having successfully run against Mr. Williams four times, twice for mayor, once for fire and police commissioner, and once for the board of public works against his candidate, and knowing the unscrupulousness of his methods, as briefly and sparingly mentioned above, and that he has no issue except that he wants the mayor's job, it did not take me long to decide whom I would vote for for mayor, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Paine, candidate for mayor on the Citizens' ticket, has never asked me to vote for him, nor have I ever discussed politics with him in my life. From what I know of Mr. Paine in a general way, and from what I have been told by those who know him intimately, however, he unquestionably possesses every qualification to make Memphis the best mayor she ever had, and this great city is entitled to such a mayor, particularly at this time.

Mr. John B. Edgar, who is a candidate for fire and police commissioner on the Citizens' ticket, I have known intimately for many years, and I am certain that no higher-grade man of splendid ability has ever offered for a city office.

I do not know Mr. Horace Johnson, but I understand he is a steady, straightforward, honest man, and is well equipped to be a city commissioner.

I scarcely know Major Allen, but his long experience as an engineer, and his recent experience with the army in France as a road builder, would make him an ideal commissioner of streets, bridges and sewers.

I have known Mr. Charlie Shannon for some time, though not intimately, but I am sure that his expert knowledge of accounting peculiarly adapts him for the office of commissioner of accounts, finances and revenues.

I had nothing whatever to do with the selection of any man on the Citizens' ticket, nor have I had anything to do with the management of the campaign.

Believing that this Citizens' ticket represents the best interests of the people of Memphis, I am sure that Mr. Paine and his associates will be overwhelmingly elected on November 6.

E. H. CRUMP.

George A. Macon Also Appealed to E. H. Crump for Help

Failing to Get It, He Now Attacks Him

Read this affidavit:

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 20th, 1919.

It was either Monday, Sept. 29th, or Tuesday, Sept. 30th, this year I do not recall exactly what day; anyway, I was called on the telephone from the Macon & Andrews College at my Automobile Sales office, with the request that I come down to their office to see them. I told them it would be more convenient for me to stop across the street, either in front of Walsh the tailor, or Moriarty's. I stopped in front of Moriarty's, which is directly in front of Macon & Andrews College.

Messrs. Geo. A. Macon and A. A. Andrews saw me, and came over to my auto. Geo. Macon said he wanted to get on the Bacon ticket, and wanted me to go with him to see Mr. E. H. Crump. Finally Macon said, "I will not go up, but Andrews, you go up with Jack and see Mr. Crump." Mr. Andrews and I drove to the Courthouse, and called on Mr. Crump at his office. Mr. Andrews told Mr. Crump he had come up to see if he could not get Macon on the Bacon ticket. Mr. Crump promptly told him he thought the ticket had been made up, but that he did not know. Mr. Andrews said he was very sorry indeed, because Macon was anxious to get on the Bacon ticket knowing Mr. Crump was going to support it. I carried Mr. Andrews to the corner of Madison and Main streets, where he got out, and I returned to my office.

Mr. Macon had talked to me a great many times during the months of July and August regarding the Mayor's contest to be had November 6th. He was anxious to talk with Mr. Crump, and wanted me to go out to Mr. Crump's house with him. He suggested several times that we get Mr. Keon Taylor, and go out to Mr. Crump's house, get Mr. Crump in my auto and talk over the situation. Mr. Crump always said, "Jack, this fellow Macon is no good. He is playing to the galleries, and is an awful hypocrite with it."

I told Mr. Crump he was mistaken in the man, for at that time, from the way he talked to me, he was anxious to get with Mr. Crump, telling me how he admired Mr. Crump, and his ability to do things. I felt sure he was sincere, and I had faith in him.

I am only prompted to make this statement since Mr. Macon has repudiated everything he said to me by going around town abusing Mr. Crump.

(Signed) S. J. ROCCO.

Subscribed and sworn to before me in person by S. J. Rocco, this 10th day of October, 1919.

(Signed) C. A. GATES, Notary Public.